

TO THE RESCUE IN THE SAGUENAY

Maclean's

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

AUGUST 5, 1996

TRIUMPH



Scullers' Gold for
Heddle and McBean



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BAILEY**

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Man*

TRAGEDY

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Triumph and tragedy

On the track and on the water, Canadian athletes showed their mettle in a Barcelona Games suddenly overtaken by the shadow of terrorism. Sprinter Donovan Bailey and sculler Kathleen Heddle and Mahe Moireau brought home the gold on an Olympic day that began with a deadly explosion

Photo: David J. Phillip



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Outspoken publisher Pierre Péladeau bids for Toronto Sun Publishing Corp.—and has his work cut out for its management



David J. Phillip



David J. Phillip

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The arrest of a Tamil Tamil laborer working for the RCMP sparks a murky tale of terrorism and international intrigue

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Saguenay rescue

Devastating flooding in Quebec adds new urgency to the frequently asked question: What in the world is happening to the weather?



Photo: David J. Phillip

From The Editor

Tested by tribulation



Bearing a plane for a family vacation, sleeping peacefully in bed, sitting in a park listening to a concert—tragically, those single human acts in the past two weeks have put people in harm's way. First, it was the passengers aboard TWA's doomed Partinbred flight 800 out of New York City; then, children asleep in a mud slide engulfed their house in

Quebec's Saguenay region; and, in the wee hours last Saturday, the happy revellers caught up in a pipe-bomb explosion at Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta.

The two explosions were the cruelest acts of violence attempting to use the innocent in pursuit of deadly and misdirected aims. The response in Atlanta was exactly appropriate: the International Olympic Committee vowed to continue with the Games, and people thrugged to the various sites, including 85,000 who filled Olympic Stadium and saw Donovan Bailey become the fastest man in the world that night.

The Quebec floods, ostensibly natural acts possibly exacerbated by man's attempt to alter the course of nature, also had a paradoxically reassuring effect: drawing people across the country together. There was a richness of folklofting and a mission of doing by both the federal and provincial governments. The Canadian Forces, stung by various recent scandals, efficiently rescued stranded canoes and indirectly underlined the very tangible benefits of federalism.

Except for a few small minds and noise-polluted editorials, the precious response to Quebecers was heartwarming. People in all provinces responded to official and unofficial requests for donations. They sent clothes and blankets and money—a total of \$3.5

million by week's end, almost twice what the Red Cross had hoped for in its largest relief effort ever. Ottawa agreed to underwrite the bulk of the government assistance.

And in the Saguenay, a historic hotbed use of separatist votes, there was a sense of gratitude and of suddenly being part of something larger than a provincial region. "You can't help but feel more Canadian and appreciate being Canadian," Raymond Gervais, 50, a city councillor in Jonquière told The Canadian Press. Gervais, who voted for separation in the Quebec referendum last October, asked a reporter: "Can you say thank you for us?"

In a nation of regional and tribalism that often seems so absorbed by kicking and parochial jealousies, it is remarkable, and comforting, to see Canadians come together. The performances of Canadian athletes at the Atlanta Summer Games also served as a reminder of how much pluck, talent and dedication exist in this young nation, one whose merits are envied by the peoples of the world and celebrated by the official cosponsors of statistics at the United Nations.

The only pity is that it usually takes a major tragedy, or Olympian triumphs, to bring us together.

A recent Editor's note anonymously left the impression, in several readers have noted, that the women's Olympic volleyball team did not make the cut for the Atlanta Games. The reference was to the men's team. The women, of course, were there, although struggling against an 8-4 record by Saturday.

Robert Lewis



Home debris in La Rivière, Que.: a nation shaken to heart

Newsroom Notes:

The news never sleeps

I was one of those exciting weeks when news breaks out all over. The devastating floods in Quebec commanded special attention. Senior Writer Paul Kubit produced an investigative report on an alleged Tamil terrorist who worked with the RCMP, and National Business Correspondent Jennifer Wells obtained an exclusive—and early—interview with Montreal businessman



Porter with Seneca to 'a terrible thing for the Games'

Pierre Plébeau, on the eve of his bid to buy the Toronto Star Publishing Corp. Canada's "Super Sunday" at the Olympics was offering the prospect of several medals. Then early that morning, came the rumble of a pipe bomb that devastated Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park—and the world community. Counting the tragedy and triumph in Atlanta—Descriptive Editor Carl Mathews oversaw the cover package in Toronto—Sports Editor James Swanson found the crowds at the rowing finals later that day unusually muted, even at the victory celebrations. As silver medalist Derek Porter of Victoria said of the bomb: "I was trying not to let it affect me going into the race, but really it's a terrible thing for the Games and for Atlanta."

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Tireless and silent

Thank you for the portraits of some of the most outstanding and accomplished athletes who are doing us proud in Atlanta. ("Ready to rip," *Cover*, July 22). While I am not a sports enthusiast, I take great pride in these young Canadians who endure pain and hardship to represent us in competitive worldwides. It is sad that many of the Canadian athletes competing

Glynnis athletes, I feel very sad and frustrated about the mounting of the Games. As you mentioned, athletes are earning hundreds of thousands of dollars that commercial sponsors will bring often for nothing who gave them the opportunity to train—the taxpayer. Maybe we, the taxpayers, have to insist that any proceeds derived from an athlete's commercial endeavours will be shared equally with the government for five years. Perhaps the incentive for rampant drug use would be checked.

Barbara Rosen,
Vancouver

A positive spin

During my most recent visit home to Grand Bank, Nfld., a number of family members and friends expressed their disappointment with the "local boys' cover" over July 1. That a story as positive as that of the Mass Street Youth Centre would need to portray the community in such a negative fashion (youth centre, widely recognized code of conduct and numerous other extracurricular youth organizations). The youth centre is yet another example of the enthusiasm the people of Grand Bank have towards their youth. Despite its proximity to St-Pierre-et-Miquelon, the problem of teenage drinking in Grand Bank is no different than the problem of teen drinking in Halifax or Saskatoon, N.S., where I have been employed in a school cafeteria. Such sensationalism is disappointing.

James Hugh-James,
Dorval, N.B.

Congratulations on your inspiring feature. It is worth noting that thousands of Canadians also volunteer their time and expertise each year to Canadian organizations working to promote international co-operation. Some organizations manage emergency operations, such as refugee camps. Others work with overseas partners to rebuild villages after earthquakes. Some send volunteers abroad to provide specialized technical assistance in finance, agriculture or human rights laws to governments or citizens groups. Others work with local

Respecting tradition

Was stirred by Katherine Allen's call for a national show of unity, pride and love for country during the 1995 celebration of Canada Day ("Let the spirit of Canada be heard," *The Road Ahead*, June 24). In 1987, I had the pleasure of attending the International Association of Chiefs of Police convention in Toronto. An event that will live with me for the rest of my days was the equestrian show performed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The patriotism, pride and respect for tradition were ever-present as the riders guided their steeds through their routines. Coming away from the arena that night, I offered the comment: "Too bad many Americans don't have the same regard for tradition as do the Canadians." In support for Katherine's call for unity, never take for granted that which has become the foundation of your life country. Revere, always, those who have given of themselves to help shape the nation whose emblem occupies a position of prominence amongst all in the free world. Be as quiet against apathy and ignorance from within. Respect is and should be contagious. It's a good thing to catch.

Thomas F. Weber,
Retired commander, U.S. Coast Guard,
Cheshirefield, N.H.

village associations to provide micro-loans to would-be entrepreneurs or to improve children access to health services, education, sanitation, housing, utilities or food security. Let's not forget to salute them, too.

Betty Patten,
President and CEO,
Canadian Council for International Co-operation

Seditious rhetoric

While reading the July 22 issue of *Maclean's*, it occurred to me that somewhere the Canadian spin has gone completely totally confused. First, I read Diane Francis's account of Blaise Quibbeaux MP Jean-Marie Jacob's treasonous statement regarding the Quebec military and the thwarted efforts of Montreal lawyer Robert Tyler and Reform party leader Jim Harper to turn him into a traitor. The treason was never in dispute that a person who strongly believes in violent action against the elected government of his country should not be on a committee dealing with that same country's military secrets? When will our government begin to treat Quebec as the province that it is and not as the country/state that it is

pires to be? Preaching armed action is treason and should be treated as such. Second, I read about the report on the Seneca reservation, which ends with a disclaimer of the procedures being followed for Bernard's safety in prison ("Banging the cage," *Canada*, July 22). Are we crazy? A sedition traitor is allowed to continue his rhetoric and given access to military secrets, while the most disloyal rapist-murderer of our time is being carefully protected against his fellow inmates, sometimes involving their being locked up out of his way.

Clare Turner,
Mississauga, Ont.

Diane Francis in "Political convicts and the Jacob affair" (*Column*, June 22) is bang on in her comments. What she has shown Canadians is that the Quebec camp of the Liberal party is in bed with the Bloc Québécois. She has also revealed that the Prime Minister and his cabinet are cowards, glib and out of touch with reality. But what else can the country expect when the Liberals are led by a socialist whose only thoughts are how to save Canada while beating Quebec? It started with former prime ministers Mike Pearson and Pierre Elliott Trudeau and lives today in Jean Charest.

Bob Orisk,
Belmont, B.C.

Provocative parade

It seems to me that if we applied the logic to this march of Orangemen through Catholic areas of Northern Ireland such as Portlough in this country ("Back to the barricades," *World*, July 22), it would mean a march of Irish or Canadian victory march through Quebec City.

Cy Doyle,
Pembroke, Ont.

Surely it is time Orangemen realized that it is long past time to begin commemoration of the 17th-century victories of William of Orange over King James II. Who knows, peace might then actually happen.

G. E. Andrew,
Calgary

Witty old chestnut

For the second time in the past few years, Allen Fotheringham has trotted out that old chestnut about a supposed Brunswick, Ontario Victoria hotel robbery. Her "The hotel's 'last problem'" ("It's the Irish and Italians smuggled countries," *Column*, July 15). It's extremely unlikely that the Famine Queen, as she is known in Ireland, needed any tips from Hitler's precursor on that subject, the mass graves on Grosser and along the banks of the St. Lawrence would seem to support this view.

Healthy Bites



Bones and beans

A myth from the mysterious East debunked

The myth goes something like this: "Orientals don't suffer from osteoporosis, even though they don't consume milk products." The truth is quite different. It's clear that, on average, older Orientals have poorer bone-density (and therefore, weaker bones) than older Canadians. While their different hip structure seems to protect them from osteoporosis-related fractures of the hip, the disease strikes other areas such as the spine. Even including fish bones, soy, seaweed, etc., traditional oriental diets provide only half the necessary calcium. Studies show that only by consuming milk products do the people of China and Japan, for example, meet their calcium needs.

Energizing tip

Always on the go and find yourself having to skip meals? Periodic power snacking on nutrient-dense foods like cheese and crackers or fruit and yogurt can help keep your energy levels high. You'll find that keeping your locker or desk drawer stocked with instant nutrition like nuts, cereal bars, packaged milk puddings and juice can be a real life saver.

Keep a healthy altitude.

Changing baaad attitudes

Do you judge food by what it doesn't have? Like salt, calories, fat, sugar, etc? The smarter, healthier way is to look for what food does have. Like vitamins and minerals. Check it out!

From the Dairy Bureau of Canada



Douglas athletes Wendy Whelan and Cecilia Melillo showcasing recent coverage

in Atlanta this summer are not well known in their own country. Could it be due to the fact that the media tend to dwell endlessly on the multi-million-dollar contracts in sports such as baseball and hockey? Meanwhile, the athletes who work tirelessly and silently to represent their country internationally receive scant coverage.

Joanna Parsons,
Richmond, Ont.

After reading your article on "The drug detectors," regarding the cost of detecting visible traces of banned drugs used by

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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E-mail: letters@maclean.ca or M5W 1A7/777@magazines.mcg.ca. Maclean's welcomes opinion letters but letters may be edited for space and clarity. Please supply name, address and daytime telephone number. Submissions may appear in Maclean's electronic and

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA HOCKEY

Away from the pool and track in Atlanta

Coca-Cola is the official soft drink—and Crest and Old Spice are the official toothpaste—of the 1996 Olympic Games, and at official venues, visitors are forbidden from bringing any of their own drinks (except water). But America's consumer-chiefs got around the rules last week. While watching the women's 400-m freestyle final at the Aquatics Center, President Bill Clinton was spotted sipping Canada Dry ginger ale.

With its coverage of local, pre-Olympic and university-level athletes, TSN is one of the first television networks to give young Canadian athletes national exposure. But now that many of these same athletes are Olympians, TSN has found itself on the outside looking in. That is because the official broadcaster in Canada, the CBC, is adhering closely to IOC rules. Non-rights holders, such as CTV and TSN in Canada, may only broadcast two minutes of highlights three times a day, with each clip separated by a minimum of three hours. To that, CBC has added the proviso that they may only start showing the clips at 11 p.m.

Crash makes a noise in France

It was Canada week in France's movie theatres last week. Director David Cronenberg's *Crash*, a bizarre tale about people with an erotic obsession with crashing cars, became the first Canadian movie ever to reach number 1 at the French box office. At the Cannes Film Festival in May, where *Crash* won a special jury prize after being greeted with boos and cheers at its screenings—crit-



History and Bill Clinton with his Canada Dry. Lawson (left) off any television network.

For TSN, which broadcasts one signal nationwide, that means no Olympic highlights until 11 p.m. Pacific time—which translates to 9:30 a.m. in Newfoundland, and 2 a.m. in the Bay of Islands and Quebec markets. TSN's small crew in Atlanta is also prohibited from covering any of the athletes in the Olympic sites. Some sympathetic Canadian participants have agreed to take the time to go off-site for interviews, including rower Silken Laumann, who spoke to TSN's Red Smith in a slushy bus parking lot near a four-lane river from the Lake Lanier rowing course. In

most cases, however, pool-event interviews take place long after the athlete is drained of the adrenaline or emotion that can give memorable interviews their zip. According to Jim Thompson, president and general manager of TSN, the CBC's strict dealing with the non-rights holders breaks a long-held, unspoken agreement among broadcasters to share news highlights. Says Thompson, "That's just plain wrong." The CBC, which paid the IOC \$28 million for the Canadian rights, naturally disagrees.

Advertisers seem to be taking exception to international media events of the national identity of their Olympic Games. One reader who wrote in to the daily *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* described the international press as the "official" media of the Centennial Olympic Games. Said another, "I've really been enjoying the Olympics. But you think I need to consult a member of the news media to see what I'm doing wrong?"

The Microsoft sell for kids

When computer software giant Microsoft visited Toronto last week to brief the Eye Street elite on developments in the cyber-world, it stopped off first at the city's well-known playground, Queen's Place, to meet the kids. To ensure a good meeting, of course, Microsoft, noted the place for the day and offered free admission and T-shirts. Gates talked to the young crowd of 2,500 about the importance of computers (as important as beds), and he found a few minutes to preview some of the virtual reality computer games about to come off the Microsoft assembly line. One teaches water in Honduras how to appreciate a meal eaten along with a dish of worms. Another was about cooking, designed, he said, for girls, who lag behind boys in their interest in computer games. In the virtual world according to Gates, the girl's place is under kitchen.

A beluga birthday

At 7:32 a.m. on July 23, 1995, she made history by becoming Canada's first beluga whale calf to be conceived and born in captivity. And last week, Qila, the Vancouver Aquarium's famous baby beluga, celebrated her first birthday. Weighing 110 lb. and measuring about five feet at birth, the star resident of the aquarium—which attracts more than 850,000 visitors from around the world each year—now tips the scales at more than 500 lb. and measures seven feet. The small grey beluga, who will not turn white until fully mature, is still nursing from her 10-year-old mother, Aurora. But Qila is slowly being weaned onto a diet of herring and squid—and loves to swim and play with tankmate Alpha, a 14-year-old female. "She's doing great," says senior trainer Brian Sheehan, who says Qila is gaining at the rate of about one pound a day. "We're just amazed at the weight she's putting on." A beluga's birthday.

Swims with Andy Dick. Aweing and awe!



More than location, location, location

A bold, new billboard greets motorists entering Vancouver from the Lanes Gate Drive. "Average house price, Vancouver—\$209,454. Edmonton—\$112,188," it screams. "Why aren't you here?" Beneath the message is the name and telephone number of Edmonton Realtor Bill Smith, who endorsed the campaign—launched by a private group calling themselves the Edmonton Secret—by promoting the Alberta capital. Emphasizing that Alberta has eliminated its budget deficit and has no provincial sales tax, Smith boasts: "This is the best place to invest in North America right now!"

Similar billboards greet passers-by in Toronto and Montreal, where, according to Smith, Mayor Pierre Bourque was "a little apart." But the Edmonton mayor has a solution. "If there is something in Montreal who wants to get

Edmonton billboard in Vancouver: 'the best place'

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *Accident Before, E. Janet Pringle* (4)
2. *Full of You/Heart*, Lisa Marie MacDonald (4)
3. *City of Angels*, Patricia Gaudet (2)
4. *A Night of Secrets*, John Gaudet (2)
5. *The Honeytrap*, John Gaudet (2)
6. *The Fifth Victim*, John Gaudet (2)
7. *Knives in the Dark*, Douglas Croft (2)
8. *Prisoners from the Dark*, Douglas Croft (2)
9. *The Bell & Peacock*, John Gaudet (2)

NONFICTION

1. *Beats, Beats & Beats*, David For (2)
2. *The Silent Revolution*, David For (2)
3. *And On the Way*, John Gaudet (2)
4. *Canadian Perspectives*, David Croft (2)
5. *British Columbia*, David Croft (2)
6. *Salvage*, Peter Hughes (2)
7. *And I Have to Go*, David Croft (2)
8. *The High Ground*, William Croft (2)
9. *The Message of the Spirit*, William Croft (2)
10. *Shelby*, Peter Hughes (2)

Compiled by Peter Hughes

The aftermath of war

The latest novel from Carl Mowat, acclaimed author of books for young adults, tells the story of a teenage Polish Jew who loses her family in the Holocaust. After the war, the novel's emotional recovery is at the heart of the story. The novel is a powerful story of a young person's journey to find a new life in a new world.

Passages

DIED: Former Liberal Senator Carl Goldring, 88, in Toronto. A constitutional adviser to then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.



Trudeau from 1968 to 1971, he served in the Senate from 1971 to 1982. Goldring once a horse-and-cart coach in Montreal, became a prominent lawyer and trusted negotiator who brokered many contentious labor disputes over the course of half a century in the profession. His son, Eddie Goldring, is a senior adviser to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

DIED: Longtime magazine and newspaper writer and editor David Lively Anglin, 82, of a heart attack in his cottage in Port Severn, Ont. Anglin, renowned for his stylistic elegance and gentleness of manner, was a prominent member of several national publications, including *Chatelaine*, *The Canadian* and *Microworld*.

SIGNED: NHL career scoring leader Wayne Gretzky, 35, left the New York Rangers to a \$1.5-billion contract worth \$5.5 million a year. It is less than the \$9 million he earned from his two employers last season, the Los Angeles Kings and the St. Louis Blues. But with the Rangers, Gretzky may have a better chance of making the Stanley Cup playoffs for a fifth time.

DIED: Renowned biochemist and cancer researcher Dr. Ronald Brack, 68, in an accident at his cottage at the Mile Lake, Ont. He was vice-president of research at Toronto's Ontario Cancer Institute and, in addition to his research and medical skills, was acclaimed for the innovative ways he financed new programs for the OCRI.

RETURNING: Veteran Calgary *Alta* journalist William Gold, 59, because of ill health. Gold, who began his career as a messenger, moved at various times as *Alta*'s editor, foreign correspondent, police reporter, copy editor and, most recently, columnist. In his farewell column, he described himself as "a happy dresser wandering through the tag and of his life."

DIED: Civil rights activist and author Jessica Milner, 78, of lung cancer, at her Oakland, Calif., home. Her 1963 book, *The American Way of Death*, was critically hailed for its blistering indictment of the undertaking business.



On the track and in the skulls, Canadians excel after a bomb rocks the Olympics

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

It was shaping up as a picture-perfect end to an otherwise decidedly imperfect start for Atlanta's troubled 1996 version of the Olympic Summer Games. After a week filled with gripes about everything from American joggers to inflated prices to endless traffic and technology foul-ups, the city was finally living up to its faded reputation for Southern hospitality last Friday night. The day's athletic events went smoothly, the logistics were relatively glitch-free and well after midnight, tens of thousands of revelers were still gathered in Centennial Olympic Park, listening to an open-air concert by Jack Mack and the Heart Attack. Then, shortly after 1 a.m. on Saturday, a telephone operator picked up an emergency 911 call from a man who, an FBI agent told later, "made a specific threat" about a bomb in the park. Eighteen minutes later, the bomb went off in front of a four-story-high tower where technicians controlled the sound and lighting near the stage. It exploded with a bright blue flash and an impact that shook an area of three city blocks, blowing out windows within 100 m. The blast caused one death directly, resulted in an additional fatal heart attack, and left more than 100 other people injured.

In that instant, an event that is supposed to celebrate the fellowship of the international athletic community was tragically transformed into a far more deadly contest, with life-and-death stakes. An Canadian officer William Laurance told "It's sad that something that is supposed to be about peace and fair play becomes a target like this." The bombing, and follow-up warnings that proved to be false alarms, cast a pall over the



Heidi and McIlwain: a victorious Bailey (left) kicking off a Canadian day of triumph in the Olympic medal race

Atlanta concert crowd at the moment a bomb exploded in the heart of the city: in an instant, a tragic transformation

close of the first full week of the 16-day Atlanta Games. And the Canadians took some of the shame off a Canadian day of triumph that began with a gold medal and two silvers in rowing races and closed with Donovan Bailey powering his way to victory—in world record time—over a formidable field in the 100m dash.

The Atlanta bomb blast caught Americans still reeling from the explosion of a TWA jetliner 10 days earlier that killed 230 people and appeared to be an act of sabotage (page 10). And now they were confronted for a second time by the prospect of death by terrorism. The dead were a 44-year-old American woman killed by the blast, and a Turkish construction, 40, who suffered a heart attack while running to flee the aftermath of the explosion. Most of the injured—some of whom are believed to be Canadian—were wounded by short-ranged shrapnel blown out from a point near the tower.

In the immediate aftermath, many people were too shocked to realize the enormity of what had just occurred. "There were a lot of people not knowing what was happening," said Michelle Cameron, an Athletic Services worker with the Canadian team and a gold medalist in synchronized swimming at the 1988 Olympics who was nearby. Then, she said, "the streets were flooded with police and fire trucks." And once again, the world was confronted with a shocking reminder that, no matter what the circumstances or security precautions—including more than 30,000 security personnel—there is no such thing as a completely safe place. Along with the lost lives and broken bodies caused by the blast, there were lurid questions about whether the Olympics, which originated from the simpler ideals of earlier times with amateur athletes, are still appropriate in an era of

journalists, cameramen—and even artists. There were also haunting reminders of the 11 bombs rendered by terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games—and the sad twist that, earlier in the week, their surviving family members filed in an attempt to get official sanction for a ceremony commemorating their loss.

All of that clouded the efforts of the more than 10,000 athletes competing from 197 countries and territories. For Canadian athletes, the blast came just hours before the beginning of what proved to be their single most productive medal-winning day so far in the Atlanta Games. Their Saturday victories raised their one-week total to eight medals—two golds, three silvers and three bronzes.

In the morning at Lake Lanier, north of Atlanta, Kathleen Wiedle and Marisa Melillo won gold in the double sculls, while Lutzmann and Derek Porter took silver in the single-scull races (page 14). That night at the Olympic Stadium, Bailey turned in a shortening performance, surging to the finish in 94.8 seconds (3/100ths of a second under the world mark). That he ran on, shouting in triumph, and completed his victory lap wearing a Maple Leaf flag handed to him from the audience (page 13).

The week had already made medal stars of Canadians Chris Hayles in cycling and Massimo Lippert and Curtis Myden in swimming, and crowned champions from around the world such as Ireland's amateur swimmer Michelle Smith (page 16). As the Games continued after the bombing, they did so with a steady

min in Atlanta, flags lowered to half-staff at all venues. At the same time, already tight security precautions were stepped up to a new level that was to remain in place until the end of the Games—and would be felt by virtually everyone near an Olympic site. At Lake Lanier, the site of the rowing finals, soldiers bearing machine guns patrolled the grounds, and other soldiers replaced the usual Olympic security personnel at checkpoints. Troops with flashlights scanned under boats carrying media and spectators, and all bags taken to seats and walking areas were examined. Even the athletes faced thorough searches.

In the wake of the blast, some security personnel at the Games privately expressed misgivings that the medal and injury toll was not worth. The park where the explosion occurred has been popular as a free-of-charge gathering place and entertainment center for events surrounding the Games, featuring a giant beer pavilion, virtual reality rides and concerts by acts including longtime star Kenny Rogers. As well, FBI agents said that there may in fact have been some other explosive device involved in the blast. There were indica-



'It's sad that something about peace is a target'

tion that the bomb held nails and screws, amounting to what FBI spokesman Woody Johnson described as "an anti-personnel fragmentation device, a homemade bomb."

Before the Games began, the chief organizer, Billy Payne, said "The safest place on this wonderful planet will be Atlanta during the time of our Games." And for Payne, a real estate developer,

Centennial Olympic Park was to be one of the principal showcases, a refurbished facility built in the middle of what had been one of the city's most run-down areas. On the day after the blast, the park was closed and desolate, with barbed fencing all the nearby streets.

For both athletes and spectators, everything changed. Outside the Olympic Village, the tension was palpable. Inside, it was hard to imagine how it could become more tense. Even before the bomb, some athletes and organizers had said they could not decide whether their isolation inside the Village was a curse or a relief. In an interview three days later, Deryk Seftling, a Canadian sprint coach, and "The scary part is that we're separated from people, and I wish we weren't because these should be the people's games. The parents and everybody who's worked with the kids can't lose over the fence and shake hands without being stopped. But that's life in America—and probably every other place, too, come to think of it." Even at the meeting place of many athletes on a hot summer night, violence became a part of everyday life.

of a relief. In an interview three days later, Deryk Seftling, a Canadian sprint coach, and "The scary part is that we're separated from people, and I wish we weren't because these should be the people's games. The parents and everybody who's worked with the kids can't lose over the fence and shake hands without being stopped. But that's life in America—and probably every other place, too, come to think of it." Even at the meeting place of many athletes on a hot summer night, violence became a part of everyday life.

With JOE CRADLEY, JAMES DRACON and MARY NEMETH in Atlanta



THE WORLD'S FASTEST MAN

Donovan Bailey wins track's most coveted title in record-breaking time

BY MARY NEMETH

It was the marquee event of the Olympic Games—the most exciting 10 seconds in the first week of what has already been a showcase for extraordinary athletic endeavor. On Friday, the most exciting 94.8 seconds, a blistering new world record set by Canada's own Donovan Bailey, winner of the title that goes to the winner of the Olympic 100-meter, world's fastest man. And at first, he did not seem to be realizing that he sat at all. Bailey had a slow start out of the blocks. But he kept on gaining ground, accelerating to a pace of 12.1 feet per second at the 60-m mark, and powering past the field in his final 10 strides. And what a field it was. New Zealand's Frank Fredericks took silver with 9.80 seconds and even bronze medalist Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago finished in just 9.95. Together, the top three sprinters were the fastest medalists ever recorded. And Bailey was the standout. "When I started to accelerate and guys were still within reach of me," the clated victor said immediately afterward, "I knew I had it then."

The 200-m final on Saturday night was not only the fastest one it was also one of the most bizarre. It began with three false starts, two of them blundered on 30-year-old British runner Linford Christie, the gold medalist at the 1992 Games in Barcelona. That disqualified Christie, but the racers had to wait for official confirmation when he appeared for a review. Finally, Christie retreated to the sidelines where he stood, shaking his head in disbelief and watching as Bailey blazed over the finish line. Bailey gave out a joyful yell as he realized he had won. And then he ran a victory lap, a Canadian flag draped over his shoulders. "I ran my own race in the

University of Texas in 1994, after they met at the world championships in Stuttgart, Germany. He helped Bailey polish his style and even ran only progressively better times and a world 100m, but also endorsement deals worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now, his Olympic gold medal took him into the millions. Sprinter, meanwhile, was the world's most valuable world championships. At a news conference the day before the 100-m heats, Smith seemed confident, saying he had been running well in practice, although he acknowledged that he had some injuries "here and there." Regardless, the occurrence of Smith, Bailey and the relay team has helped Canada's sprint program change from the second that rocked the 1988 Olympics in Seoul when Ben Johnson tested positive for steroids and was forced to surrender his 100-m gold medal. That in an issue Smith addressed at the press conference. "All the time, they're talking about drugs with athletes from track and field," he said. "I don't think the media treat us fairly, 1988 was a big scandal, but it's time to put those things behind."

Bailey downplayed a question about whether his victory earned the memory of the Ben Johnson saga. "I'm racing for myself and for my family, and for the country of course." Then, he added, "I know it is a good thing for our sport. It definitely is going to do some good." It also made family and friends back in Guelph very happy. Bailey presented them a big party when he gets home. As he put it: "My house. My treat."

With JOE CRADLEY and JAMES DRACON in Atlanta

With JOE CRADLEY and JAMES DRACON in Atlanta

Finally, Bailey "And I ended up [with] the gold medal and a world record." His only disappointment, he said, was that Montreal's Bruce Sorin, doubling fifth in his semi-final heat with a run of 10.13 seconds, failed to make the final.

Bailey went into the race as the reigning world champion—although his times before Atlanta this year had been off in his personal best. The 25-year-old runner's home is in Guelph, Ont., but he trains in Austin, Tex. Bailey stayed in Austin until late last week, preparing for the Games with fellow sprinter Glenroy Gilbert, 27, of Ontario, and long-jumper Rich Duncan, 22, of St. Catharines, Ont. The trio flew to Atlanta on July 28, only two days before the 100-m preliminary heats. Clearly, Bailey's training regime a paid off.

So had his decision relatively late in life to focus on sprinting. Born in Jamaica, he moved to Guelph to live with his father when he was 12, and went on to play basketball at his community's Sheridan College. Afterward, he focused on building a small consulting business. It was not until 1991, when he was 25, that he started serious training as a runner, after attending the national track championships in Montreal and deciding he could run faster than the sprinters he saw. Up to that point, his only experience had been with his high-school track team. But Bailey did not make an international record until after he began working with sport specialist Don Pfaff at

'A GREAT WAY TO GO OUT'

In their last Olympic pairing, Heddle and McBean row to a gold medal

BY JAMES DEACON

They were spent, drenched with sweat and aching all over. But slowly, as the pain in their limbs dissipated, rowers Kathleen Heddle and Marlene McBean lifted their heads and looked across the water towards the stands. They did not need to consult the scoreboard—the fluttering Maple Leafs and the crowd's noisy cheers told them that they had won Canada's first gold medal of the 1996 Summer Games. Heddle left backwards, wearily shaking her teammate's hand. McBean spread her mouth to say but, as she said afterwards, "I couldn't catch my breath, let alone say anything." They turned and waved at the crowd, somewhere in the celebrating throng, there were parents and friends and even, in the case of Heddle, her eight-month-old who each won two gold medals at the 1992 Games, both boys, each began the slow rise to the medal presentation. "It felt good to get up there and sing," said Heddle.

The double-sculls winners triumphed less than 12 hours after a bombing in Atlanta cast a dark shadow across the Games as their halfway stage—and even the most productive day for Canadian competitors. Just as they did four years ago at the Barcelona Olympics, rowers led the way in the medal parade. On the tranquil waters of Lake Lanier, 66 km northeast of Atlanta, scullers Jolanda Laurance and Derek Porter, both of Victoria, each won a silver medal.

From the start of the regatta, Heddle and McBean had been indomitable, winning their heats and semi-finals with flawless synchronization and unmatched power—the same qualities had helped them win the pairs event four years each as opposed to two each in the double and the women's eight in 1992. It was not easy in the final, though. They pulled hard off the start of the final, and built a small lead over the Chinese and Dutch boats. But the lead remained narrow to the end. "It felt as if we were moments away from having nothing left," McBean said. "The crowd was going crazy and I'm thinking, 'Where's the finish line?' They had just come out of reserve." It was just great to have a drive," she added. "That was the

first thing that went through my head."

Laurance, 31, put in the final the hard way, losing her first heat in the powerful Dane, Trine Hattum, and thus having to row a second qualifying race—a reprieve in rowing parlance—in order to make the semi-final. Her slugging beginning did not concern head coach Brian Richardson, who remarked that "Jolanda has always been a poor starter at regatta." She proved him right, winning her reprieve easily, then outpacing several nations' contenders, including defending world champion Maria Brandts of Sweden, in the semifinal. In the Saturday final, she, Hansen and Yelachenko Khodolovich of Belarus all started fast. Although Laurance took the early lead, it was Khodolovich, a powerful woman with a shy smile, who slipped across the line first. It was Laurance's last race, and she was disappointed. "It's not something that I am going to look back at and wonder what I might have done differently," Laurance said. "I did everything I could, in training and in the race, and someone else was still better."

Porter put aside his charismatic stardom in 1992 to take one last serious shot at single-sculler gold. The 28-year-old won the 1993 world championship, but his plating slipped in 1994 and 1995, while he was in school and unable to train full time. He seemed fully in command during the heats and semi-final, and he took the lead in the final through the first 1,500 m. But unpredictable Swiss star Xeno Müller surprised him in the final 500 m, leaving Porter to edge out Ganga for silver by less than three-tenths of a second. Looking solemn, the Canadian tried to salvage something from silver, saying that he was happy with his effort. Then, he asked cheerily, "Do I sound convinced?" His coach, Brian Richardson, said neither Porter nor Laurance had any reason for remorse, but he understood they would be disappointed. "There's a saying that you don't win silver, you lose gold," Richardson said. "The sure sign's how they feel."

Not every Canadian saw the flag raised last week. Weedy Wiebe of St.



● Heddle and McBean lead the way. Laurance (left), veteran depart, but new talents will carry on a tradition of excellence



file at the 1992 Games, plans to retire. Among other things, she said her husband, realtor John Wallace, intended to go home to Victoria and try out what most people call "normal" life. "I'll never get completely out of rowing," Laurance said. "But I am ready to move on—Pia 31, and I have been doing this for a long time." Heddle, 30, who has been a quiet, powerful force in Canadian rowing, says she is retiring again—and this time, she is not going to let McBean talk her into another boat.

Porter, a member of the victorious men's eight at Barcelona, says he will return to three-year college in Toronto this fall. When that is done, he says, he hopes to set up a practice in Vancouver. "We put off my next life long enough," he says. And Richardson, the team's head coach who is credited with merging the once-separate men's and women's programs and building a cohesive team, is being courted by, among others, the rowing federation in his native Australia. The Canadian rowers have other ideas. "I hope that we have made it clear to him that we want him back," said Van der Kamp. Richardson says won't decide until after the Games. "It is very interesting," he says. "I hope I'll have to take some time and think about things."

Still, there remains a nucleus of athletes who will carry on the Canadians' tradition of excellence. Both the men's and women's eights are relatively young. Richardson and Van der Kamp are 34 and have their sights on the Games at Sydney, Australia, in 2000. Richardson would be missed if he left, but the team has other capable coaches. And the irrepressible McBean, 28, is not yet ready to get out of the water. "I am going to take a sabbatical off," said the University of Toronto student of kinesiology (the mechanics of human movement), "but I just don't feel as if I am finished with rowing. It's such a great lifestyle."

In Atlanta, however, the future seemed far away. On a day when terror struck deep, even piercing the protective shell surrounding elite athletes who are focused on their competitions, the celebrations on Lake Lanier were understandably muted. But Vancouverite Heddle, the quatercentennial woman of few words, best summed up what she means was her last race. "It's not sad," she said. "It is a great way to go out."

Catherines, Ont., and Colleen Miller of Victoria, three-time world champions and the gold medal favorites in Atlanta, struggled to find their form all week in the double sculls and were eliminated before the final. "We did what we know how to do," Miller said sadly, "and at the end of the day, they were just better than us." Emma Robinson of Winnipeg and Anna Van der Kamp of Port Hardy, B.C., the hosts to Heddle and McBean, finished fifth in the women's pairs. "If we had rowed the race of our lives, we might have got into the medals," said Van der Kamp. "We just didn't row that race."

For some key members of the team, the Olympic regatta was a farewell to competition. Laurance, whose courage in coming back from a horrific injury helped give rowing its unprecedented pro-

● Porter with medal, strong early in his race, he settled for silver

Person-to-person sportsmanship shows the Olympics at their best

GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER

BY JOE CHIDLEY

In Turkey, they call him Packer Hercules. And although he stands less than five feet tall, nobody in the world of Olympic weightlifting is bigger than Nam Soleymanoglu, a four-foot, 11-inch, 143-lb dynamo with abbreviated arms and legs like tree stumps. An ethnic Turk born in Kocaeli, Bulgaria, 29 years ago, Soleymanoglu set his first world record in 1983, when he was only 16 years old. Since defecting to Turkey in 1986, he has become a national hero in his ethnic homeland. Soleymanoglu captured his first Olympic gold in Seoul in 1988. He did it again in 1992 in Barcelona. And in Atlanta, he faced only one real contender for his crown: the man he beat in Barcelona, 20-year-old Valeriy Leontiev. Five inches taller than Soleymanoglu, who calls his rival simply "the Greek," Leontiev—6'0" days before the bout but nicknamed the ancient Olympic tradition of peaceful cooperation—Leontiev and Soleymanoglu met for their second Olympic showdown. With hun-

dreds of Greek fans packing one side of the Georgia World Congress Center arena, and screams from their hundreds of Turks screaming "Nam! Nam!" the stage was set for an uneasy encounter between historic, better enemies—a test of national will. But it turned out to be much more than that.

This battle of tiny titans was, in short, the greatest event in the history of weightlifting—among the purest of sports, a straightforward pitting of strength against strength. In the first phase of competition, the snatch, Soleymanoglu bested Leontiev by 25 kg, lifting 147.5 kg (325 lb)—in one snatched motion. (To put that size perspective, it is a Mickey Rooney imitating a Shaggy O'Neal over his head.) In the clean and jerk, the Greek lifted 185 kg in his second attempt, edging Leontiev's previous world record of 182 kg. Then, the grunting Greek proudly set a world mark at his own—187.5 kg, more than three times his body weight. Soleymanoglu took it in stride. With a sharp intake of breath and swaying under the incredible weight, he equaled Leontiev's effort, setting

another world record for total weight. And after Leontiev tried, and failed, to lift 190 kg in his last attempt, Soleymanoglu became the first weightlifter ever to win three Olympic titles. As the Turkish fans cheered, fireworks erupted, began to wrap. And then a funny, moving thing happened. The champions waddled up to Leontiev—and gave him a hug.

A Turk hugging a Greek? Only at the Olympics.

Happening early in the first full week

of the 16-day Games, it was the Atlanta competition's first real "Olympic moment," as TV commentators like to say. But Soleymanoglu's close act was also the first real reminder that Olympic sportsmanship, at its best, can transcend politics and nationality in Atlanta in 1996, the point is easy to forget. These are, as NBC never tires of telling its viewers in its exclusive back-country Olympic TV coverage, "America's Games." And not surprisingly, most of the focus in Atlanta has been on the U.S. team and its off-the-radar accomplishments—like 18-year-old Keri Strug's ankle-spraining walk to secure the first American gold medal in women's team gymnastics. As "moments" go, it was tailor-made for TV.

But small-screen theatrics could not whitewash a more obvious U.S. accomplishment: making the most bitterly complained-about Olympics in memory, as athletes and journalists continued to struggle against a chronically tardy transport system, scheduling hiccups and a seriously lag computer network that was supposed to provide up-to-the-minute results and athletes biographies—and failed on both counts.

Supply for the boys, the Atlanta Olympics have provided more than that. Beyond the triumphs on the roaring courses of Lise Løftholm and the split-second shows on the 100m



● Limpert racing: displaying silver—a national record to go with her medal

sprint track, Canadians marveled a scattering of personal triumphs, including medal performances by cyclist Clara Hughes and swimmers Marianne Limpert and Curtis Myden. And like the little Turkish weightlifter, a host of international athletes made history of their own. One was dark horse swimmer Michelle Smith, who became the first female competitor from Ireland ever to capture Olympic gold—and then did it twice more, finally winning a fourth medal, a bronze, for good measure. Or Penny Heyes, another swimmer, the first gold medalist for post-apartheid South Africa who won the 100m and 200m breaststroke events. There was Aikmanis Kereins, the Latvian hero of superheavyweight Greco-Roman wrestling, who emerged triumphant in a tough first match against American Matt Gaffner. Chinese gymnast Li Naoliang also rebounded from a terrible performance in men's team competition to capture individual gold while Ukraine's student Lilia Podkolyanova won the women's event. And a plucky Japanese soccer team, incredibly devoid powerhouse Brazil 1-0—praising Japan's *Kashiki Shōshō* newspaper to run the headline, "Grabbing a miracle! Open the door of history!"

Forget the flats and the inevitable hype, the bomb as a mass in athletics. At these Olympics, the Games are all the thing.

Rain poured down on the bicycle road-racing course in suburban Atlanta on the first Sunday of the Games, turning the 108km course slick and away of the best riders in the world outside. But halfway through the race on the streets of suburban Atlanta, a small group of cyclists pulled away from the pack—and among them was a red-haired 23-year-old from Whistler, Can Hughes. Going for the break, Hughes later said, was a matter of instinct.



"The road race is such a lottery," she added, "you just never know if you're going to get the moment you need." In the end, it was the right moment: Hughes crossed the finish line in 2:06:44—only seconds behind France's Jeanne Lepauc-Garrel and Italian Lucinda Chappin, and fast enough for Canada's first medal, a bronze. "To be the first Canadian medal in these Games is something so special—needs are really limiting," said an emotional Hughes, who only took up competitive cycling at 18. "It's something I'll never forget." Neither, no doubt, will her parents. With their daughter's two events separated by two weeks, Marianne and Ken Hughes decided to travel to Atlanta to watch her compete, the 26.5km time trial, on Aug. 3. And Clara Hughes had something special to give to her mother on arrival: the bronze medal. "It's way far from me to give my parents something back," she explained, "something that means a lot to me."

Canadian medal achievements ground momentum in on that first Sunday on the other side of Atlanta, as more than 14,000 mostly American fans at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center cheered homegrown favorites Tom Dolan and Eric Nussmeier in the 400-m individual medley swimming contest. But the noise did not last: competitor Curtis Myden of Calgary. "The crowd was loud, but a little long, you know," said Myden, a 22-year-old physical education student at the University of Calgary. "You know that something exciting is going on." Not that you could see the excitement in Myden—a swimmer whose emotions are hard to read, even for his coach of six years, Doreen Seidling. Seidling doesn't show emotion at winning, or losing, or swimming great or swimming just OK," says Seidling. "He plays his life like poker, you know! He plays the cards he has."

In the 400-m medley, those cards were good enough for a bronze medal behind Dolan and Nussmeier—a nice birthday gift from the Canadian swimmer to coach Seidling, who turned 63 the next day. And the personal-best performance produced a medalist boost going into the 200-m individual medley four days later. The strongest butterfly swimmer in the field, Myden got off to a fast start, leading the pack for the first 50 m. And although he fell off in the backstroke and breaststroke legs to eventual winner Alfia Gane of Hungary and silver medalist Jari Savonen of Finland, the Canadian burst on in the freestyle to capture his second bronze medal. With that, the self-proclaimed "Medal-maniac" won his double-medal performance of his life, Alex Bonanza, who won two golds at the 1984 Games.

Canada's best performance in the pool this year came from Marianne Limpert. The persuasive 25-year-old from Fredericton, who joined the national team in 1991 as a junior phenom, has let Hamilton's Jasmine Malar take the medley specialist in recent years. But head coach Dave Johnson says she came into the

Games better accepted than he had ever seen her in the morning quickly. But for the 200-m individual medley, Lampert broke the Canadian record she set four years before. More importantly, her time was the fastest among the eight swimmers who, in the Atlanta village, took their marks with a shot at gold. She set the pace early, but after turning for home in the last 50 yards of the freestyle segment of the medley—Irish swimmer Smith earned just for the victory. Major, meanwhile, wears a blistering final 50 to grab fourth place. When Lampert emerged from the pool, and when she stood on the podium with her new silver medal around her neck, she searched the stands for a sight of her parents. "It's sort of a rule that I don't talk to them before a race—they kind of break me out," Lampert said with a laugh. "But now, they can break me out all they want."

Finishing second in Smith landed Lampert into the major sporting controversy of the Games last week. After Smith won her first gold medal in the 400-m individual medley on July 30, the U.S. team lodged a formal complaint that she had registered too late for the 400-m freestyle—an event she was also an IOC exhibition panel ruled that she could race. But then, American swimmer Janet Evans saved the spectre of drug use to explain the 36-year-old Smith's remarkable performance—the Irishwoman has inspired her race in the 400-m freestyle by nearly 10 seconds since last year. "I think any time any person, any country, has dramatic improvement, there is that question," Evans said. Adding fuel to the speculation, Smith's husband and personal trainer, Erik de Thuer, a former world silver medalist in discus—currently under a four-year ban from competition after testing positive for steroids.

After winning the 390-m medley, Smith angrily denied taking performance-enhancing drugs, saying that she has been tested repeatedly over the past 13 months with negative results. "When someone else is successful and you aren't," Smith said, in a clear



● Hughes: being the first Canadian medal winner is something special

reference to the Americans, "it is easy to come the danger." But when the Irishwoman's weekly took on her critics, Canadian Lampert seemed to be treating her part in the controversy—Smith was disappointed, she would stand to get gold—a typically very sense of humor. When told that officials were still waiting for Smith's drug test results, Lampert flashed a wicked smile and said "So am I."

As Lampert, Myden and Hughes captured medals, disappointment edged some other Canadian athletes. High board diver Anne Montgomery, a Pointe-Claire, Que., native, ranked fourth in the world, failed to qualify for the final. Montrealer Nicolas Gill, who was bronze in the 600-kg world class at the 1992 Barcelona Games, had a shot at a top-three finish in Atlanta. But he ran into Dutchman Mark Huizinga. Officially, it all ended with four minutes, 56 seconds remaining in the five-minute match. But Huizinga, who went on to win bronze, scored for less than 30 seconds to convert Gill's opening charge into a lightning-fast shoulder throw, winning the match and dashing the Canadian's medal hopes. "He was waiting for me, that's obvious," Gill said, and afterwards "I did exactly what he was expecting." Gill's friends, who watched from the stands, was philosophical about the loss. "This is one bad day in life," Derek Gill said, shrugging his shoulders. "In Barcelona, he had a good day."

As does go, AOCG—the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games—did not have much to say. At least, not the conclusion of most of the 15,000 or so journalists who descended upon the piping-hot city of three nations, where getting around is difficult at the best of times. Half bath no fairy like a journalist waiting for a bus—and waiting became something of a non-official Olympic event in Atlanta, as complaints about late transports to and from Games sites poured in.

But the overcrowding over transportation was as nothing compared with the problems returned for the \$80-million, IBM-coordinated computer system, designed to provide up-to-the-minute results and e-mail for 150,000 accredited officials and reporters around the world. Last week, breakdowns were frequent, and many athlete biographies remained unreliable or inaccurate—one had a weightlifter, 11-inch U.S. women's field hockey player weighing in at over 200 lb. And several news agencies, who had paid thousands of dollars for a direct feed from the results system, complained of delays. Some demanded a refund. And IBM officials acknowledged that problems exist. "We are obviously very upset about it because we don't like anything not to work," said G. Richard Thomas, the company's chief financial officer. "There's an urgent focus on getting it fixed."



● Myden competing, holding up his prize (left), Ireland's Smith (below) after controversies, false-ups, glitches and allegations, triumphs of the spirit and sportsmanship ensure that the Games are still the thing



news—as was the case in the early days of the Games. But the bad-ups affected some athletes. On July 24, kayaker Lisa Lutzner of Belarus sustained a minor back injury when the bus she was on crashed into a concrete barrier near Lake Lanier. Earlier in the week, the Canadian men's table tennis team of Joe Ng and Johnny Hwang woke at 7 a.m. to learn up for their first match, scheduled for 10:00—only to find out that their plane had been pushed back two hours. In that match, the team lost in straight sets to an Australian pair they had defeated only two weeks earlier in the U.S. Open. "We have no idea of the schedule, we have no idea when our next match is," said a visibly upset Hwang of Toronto. "We have to organize our own practices. I don't understand why."

The athletes' village has also been the object of some scorn—the rooms are cramped, workers move furniture late into the night, and some athletes complained that security officers treat everyone like potential criminals. But table tennis veteran Hsiao Keng had only one complaint: the food. The Chinese-born 20-year-old is not only the sixth-ranked female player in the world, but also the co-owner, with husband and coach Hsiao Matsuo, of an Italian food franchise in Taiwan. "My pants," Keng said simply, "is much better than here."

As the Olympics entered their final week, the big-day events in Atlanta were destined to be in track and field—hurdles, decathlon, high jump and pole vaulting—in an athletics schedule culminating in the men's marathon on Aug. 4. And the American Deena Novitsky ends its notable mark to another gold medal over newly inferior opponents—the basketball equivalent of the Gulf War Canadian, meanwhile, looked for good performances in cycling, yachting, boxing and diving.

Whatever the accomplishments of the Canadians—or those of any other nationality, for that matter—the second week of the Atlanta Games promised more strong victories and shocking disappointments, more "moments" for the TV cameras to capture. Just as inevitable, there will be controversies and false-ups, logistical glitches and nightmares. And the Games, in their ancient origins a time of peace between hostile states, remain subject in their modern form to the measure of violence. But in the end, the reasonable thing about the Olympics is that they happen at all.

With JAMES DEACON and MARY NEMETHY in Atlanta



BY RAE CORELLI

On a soggy day late last April, Art Poirer found himself among thousands of people standing mudways against rising floodwaters from southern Manitoba's ancient and implacable neighbour, the Red River. Poirer flicked a cigarette butt into the brand new lake around his house. The mer, he conceded, was "hard to contain once it gets pissed at you." But the Red was not mad at Art—they were both victims. The floodwaters belonged to the weather that for months has been on a bruising rampage across Canada. So far this year, exhibiting the mesoclimatic moods of a full-blown psychotic, it has at one time or another frozen, soaked, battered, muzzed or frightened much of the country. Tornadoes explode barrels, hailstones smash greenhouses and windshields, and heavy rain turns fields into inland seas. "We're putting a little weary waiting for something normal to happen,"



A Calgary street after last week's hailstorm: in recent months, Canadians have been frozen, soaked, battered, muzzed—and frightened

STORM WARNINGS

says climatologist David Phillips of Environment Canada, "but normal is what you rarely get in Canada."

While almost no part of the nation escaped one of the longest and most vicious winters in recent years—several cities had spent their snow removal budgets by Christmas—the sudden aftermath did the real damage. In Quebec, where 10 people perished in torrential flooding in the Saguenay river system 250 km north of Quebec City, civil defence authorities pegged the damage at \$450 million. Others said that gives the impact on big companies like Alcan-Pine, \$300 million was more realistic. More than 12,000 people were driven, boated or arrested to safety from swollen rivers and mud slides.

The devastation in Quebec revived memories of Hurricane Hazel's lethal assault on the Toronto region in 1954, when more than seven inches of rain fell in 24 hours (compared with up to eight inches in 48 hours in the Saguenay report) and 41 people died. The disaster in Quebec was also a reminder that the weather's wrath had played out elsewhere in the country—often damagingly—for months.

In late April, a year of tornadoes smashed through north-central Ontario, exploding houses and barns, collapsing hydro lines, killing livestock and seriously injuring two people. The damage ranged between \$5 million and \$6 million. A month later, Southwestern Ontario got the full treatment. Floods, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes—between 80 and 200 are reported in Canada every year—that tossed tractor trailers off the highway Dave Wilkes of St. Catharines was on his way to see *Tomb Raider* at a drive-in movie when a real-life one "just hit like a wall" and destroyed the screen.

But weather's greatest agony this year has been visited on rural Quebec and southern Manitoba where floods, fed by melting ice and spring rains, are a menace older than living memory. This time, they covered 400 square miles of farmland, forced the removal of 100 families from homes along the rising Red and muzzed livestock. Thousands of army reservists and civilian volunteers reinforced dikes. It was distressing—but a far cry from 1950 when the raging Red forced the evacuation of about one-third of Winnipeg's population and caused \$300 million in damage.

As spring gave way to early summer, north-east Ontario—usually preoccupied with forest fires—repelled floodwaters threatening the communities of Chapleau, Timmins, Foley and White River. In mid-June, people in western Saskatchewan ran for cover from tornadoes, 30-cm/h winds and hail as big as golf balls. The twisters blew roofs off, knocked down power lines and ripped the front door off a goat office. Towards the end of June, a tornado touched down near Medicine Hat, Alta., and on mid-July, hail and thunderstorms crashed a under park outside Edmonton. "The rain was coming right up the lawn," marvelled Susan Jacobson. For the second time within two weeks, heavy rain took a swing at Calgary, doing more than \$1-million damage to a car dealership and forcing Rocky View Hospital to postpone surgery when the drains backed up.

And what has all that to do with the hottest topic in weather-

What in the world's happening to the weather?

watching circles—global warming? Scientists point to last winter's deep freeze as evidence that there is no such thing. However, notes Environment Canada's Henry Henggeford, one cold winter is not part of the world mean line. The fact is, he says, average global temperatures are rising, and this year's weather extremes across Canada are consistent with the changes that climatologists foresee. "This is probably the most dramatic way in which climate change will affect people," he said.

Still, it is as if what blows no good. And tornadoes, floods and mud slides draw viewers to Canada's night-time cable TV Weather Network, the first one of its kind in the world. Weather Network UK went on the air in Britain in June and Weather Network Italy will follow on Sept. 1. Five years ago, the Canadian network's commercial revenues were around \$600,000. This year, with five bureaux across Canada, a staff of more than 200, including 28 meteorologists, revenue will reach \$2 million. "The weather is one of the few things that unites this country, and for us it is always a breaking story," says Andy Polyzoides, the network's manager of news services. "We're going to become the CNN of weather." □



Overflowing due to the conflict outbreak in a season of turmoil

First, came the storms, and so much rain over two days in Quebec's Saguenay region usually sees in a month. Then, the swollen rivers went on their rampage.

When it was over, Janusz Villeneuve's corner of paradise looked like hell on earth. His pristine white house on the edge of the Chaudière River in Lévis, close to the city of Québec and close to the water, was his pride and joy. But the neighborhood that Villeneuve returned to visit late last week, three days after evacuating to a hotel, bore little resemblance to its former self. House after house sat in the brown water at the weekend river. Near Villeneuve's place, a chimney stuck out of the water—all that was left of a neighbor's house. Villeneuve's once-manicured lawn was littered with a television set, a refrigerator and pieces of wood left behind by the rushing current. The house remained standing, but the damage is extensive. "I had tears in my eyes," said Villeneuve, 35, when he saw the inside of his house late last week. The basement was ruined, the first floor heavily damaged, and Villeneuve estimated a repair bill between \$40,000 and \$60,000. Still, he added, "I'm lucky cause



Wreckage in Grande Rivière, Québec. (left) looking as if they had been hit by earthquakes and hurricanes, not just floods

FLOODWATERS ON ARAMPAGE

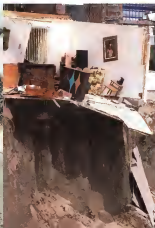
pared to my neighbors who lost everything."

For the thousands of Québécois whose homes and businesses lie in the way of the nation's onslaught, what lies ahead is the daunting challenge of rebuilding shattered lives. The flooding, the worst natural disaster on record in the province, forced almost 13,000 people from their homes. Incredibly, only 10 died, including three children—two when a mudslide engulfed their home in La Baie, just southeast of Chaudière, as they slept in the basement, the other along with two adults when their car fell into a washout on a highway. With damage estimates ranging as high as \$650 million, some economists predicted as if they had also been subjected to earthquakes and tsunamis, not just floods. Environment experts warned that, because of the global warming phenomenon, similar disastrous weather aberrations could become the norm.

But if there was a silver lining last week, it was in the overwhelming humanitarian response of other Canadians to the crisis (page 34). The outpouring of aid touched many in the Saguenay region, which has traditionally been Québec's poorest. "You can't help but feel more Canadian and appreciate being Canadian," said Régis-Groves, 58, a city councillor in Joliette, just west of Chaudière. Gervin, who voted "Yes" in last October's sovereignty referendum, asked reporters: "Can you say thank you for us?"

There was not much else to be thankful for. The torrential rains that began on Friday, July 19, deposited up to eight inches in 48 hours—almost double the normal rainfall for the entire month of July—in some parts of the Saguenay. The heaviest hit came north of Québec City. At the weekend unfolded, the results were catastrophic. Many rivers overflowed, causing hundreds of landslides. Floodwaters ripped through roads, damaged bridges and destroyed several hundred houses, sweeping some away in the current. It left up to 2,000 people

Torrential rain in Quebec leaves chaos in its wake



homeless, and several areas still had no power, telephone service or drinking water a week after the storm. "I lost everything," said Marcel Tremblay, a 57-year-old La Baie construction worker who lost his house and car in the flood. But Tremblay, who planned to find a room in the area temporarily, vowed to return to the water's edge in La Baie. Having collected the \$2,500 in immediate relief money being distributed to those who would be homeless for longer than two weeks, he bought some clothes and was looking for a car so he could get back to work.

If ordinary Canadians came through in the face of the crisis, so did the Canadian Forces. Early in the week, the sound of helicopters overhead was constant as the military evacuated thousands of people—many of whom found a temporary home in a shelter set up at CFB Baginville near La Baie. Evacuee Germain Bolduc, 68, summed up the army's work in one word: "Formidable." For a military belittled by scandals revolving around its role in Somalia and, more recently, Rwanda, it was an assessment worth relishing. "What you see today, and what you've seen in the last few days, is the real Canadian armed forces," declared Defence Minister David Collette, who visited the Baginville base on Wednesday.

Federal Labor Minister Allana Gagliano accompanied Collette to assess the damage to local employers. But while politicians may have been on the scene—politics was notably absent, Premier Lucien Bouchard, who represents the Joliette riding on the Saguenay, cut short a vacation at Chaudière to fly home because of the disaster. Early in the week, the Québec government announced a \$200-million infrastructure fund to help pay for flood damages, and Ottawa sent up 75 per cent of a \$250-million fund designed to provide financial assistance for individuals. Both Bouchard and Collette, who represents a Toronto riding, brushed aside questions about massive federal aid going to a region that has strongly supported Québec separatism. "This is not about politics," Collette said, when asked about an Ottawa radio

Confusing as evacuee at CFB Baginville, demolition apartment building in Anjouville (left) right: 10 people died, 12,000 others forced from their homes

Anthony Wilson-Smith



Backstage Ottawa

In praise of government

A long time ago, in a stream of consciousness (or, far away, the one thing that united Canadian from coast-to-coast was their dislike of Toronto. That was before the rise of infomercials, product placement in movies, the Goods and Services Tax, overpriced recorded telephone messages, computer Webpage, and the rest of the rich new mother lode of things to get annoyed about. Now, although everyone still detests the self-referential Centre of the Universe, other distinctly Canadian things to get cross about include constitutional talks, Quebec, aboriginal federal transfer payments, Quebec, the federal, higher, stronger Liberal government's version of the GST, Quebec and, of course, the universal belief that the nation would be better off if Ottawa were turned into a parking lot.

What a surprise, then, to see two recent crises that provide dramatic reminders of why governments, and even the much-decried action of government regulations, can be—and so often are—good things. On July 3, the Canadian Transportation Agency introduced new regulations requiring all airlines selling tickets to Canada to tell passengers at the time of booking which airline they will be travelling with—a service that says, though not all, Canadian airlines provided even before the regulations came into effect. The transportation agency is acting because of the increasing practice of “code-sharing,” by which transoceanic airlines sell one another, but actually travel on partner airlines that also offer service on the same routes. Both Canadian Airlines and Air Canada have such partnerships with airlines in Europe, the United States and Asia. The trouble is that the partners are not always as comfortable, or safe. Some Asian airlines, for example, still allow smoking. And some airlines are up to 45 times more dangerous statistically than the world's safest carriers. Korean Airways, which has a code-sharing agreement with Air Canada, has a record of 5.2 fatal accidents for every one million flights; the North American average is 0.76 fatal acci-

dents for every million flights, which is about seven times safer. That alone is a compelling reason to prefer a homegrown airline. But in the United States—and in some cases in Canada, before the new regulations—passengers often do not know they are flying on a partner until they board the plane. Now, in Canada at least, they can plan ahead if they so choose.

The second, more obvious example of government intervening for the common good was Ottawa's impressive response to the disastrous flooding in Quebec. Everyone involved seems to have done themselves proud. The 20-year-old federal

**Federal rescue
authorities did
themselves
proud in dealing
with the Quebec
flooding tragedy**

Emergency Preparedness Canada program is one of the government's least known and most efficient services, co-ordinating civilian services and financial support in times of catastrophe. It worked well, as did Canadian Forces personnel at the Baguerville base, near the site of some of the worst flooding.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who flew to the scene almost immediately to pledge federal support, said quite rightly that the toll of 10 people dead or missing could easily have been much worse. It would have been—the evacuation efforts of stranded families had not worked so well. The Prime Minister and Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, both dispersed with the usual Ottawa-Quebec verbal sniping, and Bouchard—who mixes occasional notes of remarkable grace into his usual homeliness—praised the role of the federal government. For the most part, the rest of Canada resisted the urge—in public, at least—to point out the obvious: a sovereign Quebec would have a much harder time mastering the needed manpower and financial resources. (The final damage tally is likely to come to about \$200 million, most of which will be paid by Ottawa.)

One of the most ironic and breathtakingly unoriginal notions of the 1990s is that governments do nothing but get on people's backs. Among other things, it ignores the fact that in times of crisis, like last week, government remains the best vehicle to help put them back on their feet.

AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE AUGUST 3, 1996 ISSUE OF MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE

CROWNING THE CANADIAN SKINS CHAMPION



Fred Couples claims
his third title

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Covering the Canadian
Skein Championships
and the Skins Game
on the Skins Game

2

IT is such a simple concept really. Lowest score wins the hole and if there is a tie, then the "skin" is carried over to the next hole. It is only when you add four of the planet's finest golfers and one of Canada's top courses, that the concept flies off into a whole new dimension of tension and entertainment.

At the 1996 Export "A" line Skins Game presented by NBC held on the Canada Day weekend at the Sunnyside Golf and Country Club in Vancouver-Donnan, Quebec, superstars Nick Faldo, Fred Couples, Nick Price and Ernie Els competed for 18 Skins worth a total of \$360,000. Coming into the competition, Nick Faldo had to be considered the favorite. The defending Skins Game champ was still pumped over his triumph at this year's Masters and is the PGA's leading putter. Of course, Fred Couples, a two-time Skins Game winner is always a threat. Labelled 'the birdie machine' by Nick Price, Couples has worked out his own Skins philosophy: "You're not playing for score, you're playing hole by hole. You just try to hang in there and wait for your chance." And the last back Couples can hang in with the best of them.

Nick Price on the other hand was determined to go aggressively after each pin. One of the game's top iron players, Price's bulky putter has kept him out of the money in past Skins. Rounding out the foursome was Ernie Els, golf's newest sensation. Els walks softly but carries a big

stick and as he proved in the 1996 Buick Classic, which he won by eight strokes, he has the ability to dominate any competition he enters.

It was Couples though that grabbed the first Skins when he birdied the second and third holes worth \$45,000. The rookie Els jumped in soon taking two Skins and \$30,000 with a birdie 3 on the fifth. The group then halved the remaining four holes and so when they teed off Sunday morning to play the back nine, the opening hole was worth an eye-popping \$75,000.



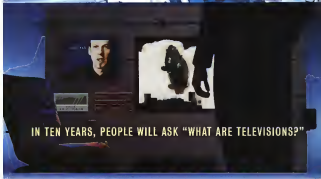
Couples put his opening drive in the pines but with the help of a generous ruling and heroic recovery shot, Fred again won the day's first Skin. Impatient with his game, Faldo decided to go straight at the corner pin placement on the par three 15th, and holed his 8-iron shot to four feet. His putt went straight in the heart of the cup and the Masters champ was instantly \$65,000 richer and putting some heat on Couples. Fred responded with a birdie at the next hole so bring his winnings for the day to a whopping nine skins and \$165,000.

After halving the next four holes and with a carry over of \$100,000, the match went into sudden death overtime where on the second hole, the steady Faldo fired his approach shot to within eight feet of the pin and then coolly sipped at his backside to collect the tiefigure check. In the final tally, Couples captured eight skins worth \$165,000, Faldo counted seven skins, also for \$165,000, Els notched two skins for \$30,000 and again this year Nick Price was shut out.

With both Couples and Faldo tied with bulging bank accounts, the duo played off for bragging rights and the Northern Lights Trophy. The 1996 Export "A" line Skins Game presented by NEC finally closed out on the fourth extra hole when Couples dropped a 20-foot birdie putt to take the trophy for the third time in four years.



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ERIC CROSBIE
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Crowning the Canadian
Slam Champions
Fred Couples claims
his third title

4



ERNIE

Although Ernie Els is just 26 years old, the buzz about his prodigious talent started over a decade ago. At age 14, the soft-spoken kid from Johannesburg flew halfway around the globe to San Diego, California to win the Junior World Golf Championship.

An all-around athlete who excelled in tennis and track, Els decided to concentrate on golf when he was 16. He was helped along by his father Neel, who built him the family backyard and named it into a putting green, complete with bunker. A big, strong kid with soft hands, even as a teenager, Els could rip a 300-yard drive and gently coax in a 30-foot downhill putt. After legend Gary Player first played with Els, he announced, "Stylistically, Ernie's is the most formidable swing of the club I've seen since that of Sam Snead."

After dominating the South African tour, in 1994 Ernie decided it was time to take his game on the road. Early in the year he won the Dubai Desert Classic, finished runner-up at the Australian Masters and the Black Classic on the PGA Tour. In mid-June he fought off the game's strongest field, the searing heat and thigh-high rough to win the United States Open as a 20-hole playoff. To round off his year, Els defeated Colin Montgomerie to win the World Matchplay title and was named the PGA Rookie of the Year.



ELS

With a beachside home just outside of Cape Town and a second home in Orlando, Els continues to play around the world and the 1996 Slam Game was his first visit to Canada. Before teeing it up with the rest of the "Big Boys" Els admitted, "To play against three of the world's best players, head-to-head, is the kind of thing I dreamed about as a kid. I think it will be great fun," said the rookie who added, "But it'll be pretty intense fun."

NICK



FALDO

Twenty-five years ago Nick Faldo was flipping through the TV channels at his home in Welwyn Garden, England when he came upon Jack Nicklaus playing in the Masters. Transfixed, the 13-year-old convinced his parents to sign him up for golf lessons the very next day. From that unlikely beginning, Faldo has gone on to be one of the finest golfers of his generation, winning more than 40 tournaments around the world including six major championships and representing Britain 10 times in the Ryder Cup.

This year's Masters Tournament turned out to be another life defining moment for Faldo. After years of being labelled the Mechanical Man because of his unending search for the perfect swing, it was his sponsorship that captured the hearts of the Augusta gallery.

Hedging into Sunday's round Greg Norman led Faldo and the field by six strokes and the star was already making the final declarations on the Shark's green jacket. However, Norman unravelled spectacularly, blowing up to a 77, while Faldo quietly fashioned a stellar 67, the



lowest score of the weekend. As Faldo rolled in a 15-footer for birdie on the final hole to seal his third Master's title, there were no gleeful high fives with longtime caddie Fanny Sunesson. Instead, Faldo solemnly picked his ball out of the hole, eggshelled Norman in a hug and whisper, "I'm so sorry." Hardly the actions of a mechanical man.



FRED

COUPLES

There seems to be an air of predestination that surrounds the golf game of Fred Couples. Whenever he fins a shot that looks headed for the pond or deep into the woods, Freddie flashes his chair boy smile and the ball seems back to a playable lie. When you combine this with his out-of-the-world laugh off the tee (hence the nickname Boomer-Boomer), it's a wonder how he ever loses.

Surprisingly, the other guys on tour like him anyway. When asked to describe Couples for a story in *Golf Digest*, Nick Price said, "Charming. Almost looks like effortless power. A natural talent for the game, which a lot of us envy. And on top of that, one of the warmest, friendliest people I've ever known."



Despite a bad back that has severely restricted his play over the past couple of seasons, the 36-year-old Couples has won 12 PGA titles, including the Masters Tournament and was named the Player of the Year in 1991 and 1992. Couples is also king of golf's off-hour titles. Along with partner Darrin Lowe III, the Seattle native has won five straight World Cup Championships for the United States. He's been nearly as successful in Canada during the Slam Game, taking three titles and over \$700,000 in prize money. In the 1993 match held at Devil's Palms, Freddie watched Nicklaus, Floyd and Price all score their points on the 15th hole and then cooly strolled in a 20-footer worth \$170,000.

With the help of a back therapist, a new regimen of exercises, and a touch of Couples' unique brand of luck, Fred is again on top of his game. During the closing holes of this season's Players Championship, Couples miraculously escaped from water on the 16th and then on the 18th to win his second Players title. As he collected a cheque for more than half a million dollars, Freddie flashed his winning smile.



NICK

PRICE

Nick Price is the proof that once guys don't have to finish last. In fact, in Price's case, they sometimes finish number 1. A favorite of fans, the media and fellow golfers because of his down to earth demeanor, the 36-year-old Price also has a mental toughness that led him to be voted the PGA Player of the Year for 1993 and 1994.

ERIC CROSBIE
NICK FAIR
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Crowning the Canadian
Slam Champions
Fred Couples claims
his third title

5

EXPORT 'A' INC.
SKINS GAME
1996

SUMMERLEA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB,
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ERNIE ELS

CHAMPION
FRED COUPLES

NICK PRICE

NICK FALDO

1997 EXPORT 'A' INC. SKINS GAME

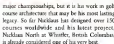
AT NICLAUS NORTH, WHISTLER, B.C. SUMMER 1997

Born in Durban, South Africa but raised in Zimbabwe, Price took up golf at age 10 along with brother Tom. Although naturally left-handed, Nick learned to play the game from the right side so he and his brother could share the same set of clubs. At age 17 he won the Junior World Championship and later played the Asian and European Tours as an amateur.



NORTH

The late Bobby Jones once said of Jack Nicklaus, "He plays a game with which I am not familiar," and with that short phrase passed on the mantle of being the game's all time best golfer to a young Golden Bear. Nicklaus has come on to win 20



Nicklaus North, which will host the 1997 Export "A" Inc. Stags Game presented by NHC is the only course where Nicklaus has allowed his name to be used in the title and the Golden Bear was obviously inspired by the natural surroundings. The course winds through Whidbey Valley, along the banks of glacially fed Green Lake, in the shadows of the rugged mountain peaks of Blackcomb and Whistler. Measuring 6908 yards from the Gold tee, the par 71 layout features five par 3, nine par 4 and four par 5 holes and has a slope rating of 138.

It is an ideal setting for a Shari' challenge. According to Brad Pfeiffer, a NCAA's North's course manager, players will be encouraged to "crack their shins on nearly every hole." "You can see every hazard off the tee and most of the landing area is 305 yards wide," says Pfeiffer. It is the par 3 holes though, where the trouble really starts. The 12th is 225 yards from the lead tee and all carry over an icy pond to an elevated island green. The 17th is a similar length with a slippery green that jets out into water, and a hefty bunker guarding the beloved water. "I will be fun to see just how aggressive these players get on these holes," chuckles Pfeiffer.

In the week following this year's Skills Game, Nicklaus North was receiving between 10 and 20 calls a day asking for tickets for next summer's big event in Whistler. Fred Couples, who grew up in Seattle, has already told organizers that he will be coming to Whistler to defend his Northern Lights Trophy and entertain carloads of friends and family to drive up and cheer him on.

[illegible]

**Crowning the Canadian
Ski Champion**

8

Canada NOTES

BLOOD INQUIRY DELAYED

The Canadian Red Cross Society plans another court challenge to keep Japhet Horace Kewer, head of the tainted blood inquiry, from pointing the finger of guilt at its officials. A spokesman said the society is being used as a scapegoat. The move will delay Kewer's final report, which had been expected in September. The Red Cross also called for the inquiry to postpone the resumption of its hearings, scheduled for Aug. 8.

UPPERWASH CHARGE

Acting Sgt. Kenneth Deane of the Ontario Provincial Police was charged with criminal negligence causing death in a case involving the shooting of Dudley George at Ippanewash Provincial Park last September. George was shot two days after a rebel Chippewa band occupied the park, claiming the land as its own. Deane will remain on the job until a verdict is reached. The Ontario Provincial Police Association said it is "astounded" by the charge.

ALBERTA MURDERS PROBED

The international law enforcement agency Interpol is investigating whether a German dermatologist, who lived in Edmonton during the early 1980s, is linked to any unsolved deaths of prostitutes in Alberta. German police arrested Dr. Ernst Stophar Schmitz, 36, in Berlin last March after a prostitute barely survived a knife attack. Edmonton police have eliminated him as a suspect in one unsolved murder, but Calgary police and the RCMP are still looking into the unsolved homicides of five women.

REFUGE FOR A DISSIDENT

Canada granted Nigerian dissident Owanu Wiwa, brother of executed human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, landed immigrant status. Like his hanged brother before him, Wiwa, 38, is a critic of multinational oil companies, which they and others accuse of poisoning the Nigerian environment.

FIGHTING FOR ENGLISH

English-language federalist groups in Quebec called for a boycott of 18 Canadian chain stores that post signs only in French. Quebec's language laws allow for English signs inside stores as long as French is dominant, and the groups are demanding English rights.

B.C. bishop guilty of rape

Native leaders in British Columbia ordered the conversion of Bishop Hubert O'Connor, the highest-ranking Roman Catholic clergyman in Canada ever charged with sex crimes, as an important step towards uncovering abuse in the province's now-defunct native residential school system. Justice Wilby O'Neil, a federal judge, ordered Circuit Court Judge Edward L. O'Connor guilty of the rape and incestuous assault in the 1960s of two native women at Cariboo Indian school near Williams Lake, B.C., where O'Connor was a priest. During the trial, one woman testified that when she was 16, O'Connor ordered her to have sex with him and that the priest was present for her. There, she said, he ordered her to take off her clothes and raped her. "No one knows the abuse that took place in those schools," said Grand Chief Edward John of the B.C. First Nations Summit after the verdict. "Sadly, and by one, people are coming forward and we're finding out more about what actually happened than this dark period in our history."

O'Connell dismissed another charge of rape levied by a woman who bore O'Connor's child, and one of indecent assault by a lord



Suffer the little children

British Columbia Social Services Minister Dennis Strickell (and himself under opposition fire) in the provincial legislature after admitting that 13 children under government care had died since November—nearly all attributed to natural causes: car crashes, a suicide, a drug overdose and one case of AIDS. Strickell later acknowledged that an additional 35 children “known to the ministry” had also died in the same time period. Despite the children’s link to government care, the minister issued under relentless questioning that none of the deaths required an external review.

B.C. ombudsman Dedic McCallum took a different view, saying that all children's deaths should be reviewed by an independent commission. She added that "no death of a child that happens while the child is in the care or known to the ministry is natural," and that "it is only after an independent investigation that we can determine that a death was unreasonable." The revelation came in the wake of a report last November by B.C. Provincial Court Judge Thomas Goss, which called for a revamping of child-protection services following the case of a 10-year-old, Matthew Vanden, tortured and killed by his mother despite dozens of reports to the minute warning that the child might be in danger. The boy's mother was sentenced to four years in prison for manslaughter.

Banker, Tiger, soldier, spy

A Tamil immigrant's arrest masks a tale of international intrigue

BY PAUL KAHILA

Calagras at the Bank of Nova Scotia found the hardworking teller, with his cosmopolitan manners and exotic accent, a welcome distraction in the beige, workaday world of a suburban bank. Vic Vignarajah's smooth talk, impeccable dress and cheerful outlook made him a favorite with both customers and staff at the Toronto-area branch, winning him an award for best employee. But a radically different image of the 37-year-old Tamil immigrant began to emerge on May 9 when roughly 20 RCMP detectives and heavily armed officers in SWAT fatigues arrested Vignarajah at gunpoint in the bank's parking lot shortly before lunch. In allegations contained in a search warrant application filed that day—and yet to be proven in court—investigators say that Kamurajah Vignarajah (his real name) was an area commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the guerrilla army that has waged a war of independence against the government of Sri Lanka for 13 years and, in 1993, established a reputation as one of the world's most feared terrorist organizations by assassinating former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

What is more, according to the court records, Vignarajah had not only been a Tiger allegedly implicated in bloody violence, but also a Sri Lankan military intelligence informant—playing both sides in the country's civil war since 1983. According to the RCMP's documents, Vignarajah, by "infiltrating" Canada's national police force as a part-time translator of top-secret wiretaps in 1984, "did wilfully attempt to obstruct, pervert or defeat the course of justice by being a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and/or a member of the Sri Lankan military intelligence." That revelation came in light of two facts. For one thing, Vignarajah's affiliation with the Tigers was common knowledge before he came to Canada in 1986. For another, he was accepted as a landed immigrant after making a refugee claim using his real name—and passing a security check by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

Vignarajah, who told Macdonald's last week that he does not know why he is in jail and that he is innocent of any wrongdoing, now faces eight charges related to infiltrating the RCMP. He has also been charged with making a false statement on his refugee claim—by denying that he has ever committed a crime or of false. And as he awaits trial, his case raises troubling questions about the twisted, often byzantine world of Canada's security agencies, as well as the extent to which the politics of Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict have spilled over into Canada.



Vignarajah under arrest; Wimalaratne (second from left) and Tigres with slain Indian prime minister were

expensive of the Tamil. The Tamil guerrilla activity escalated dramatically after 1983, when Sinhalese thugs went on a rampage that left more than 1,000 Tamils dead. In the shadow of that escalating violence, Vignarajah began his murky double life as both a Tiger and an informant for the Sri Lankan authorities. Asked last week about his LTTE membership, Vignarajah referred to Macdonald's reporter to his lawyer, adding, "I can't answer those kinds of questions right now."

It is unclear whether the banker's initial loyalty was to the militants or Sri Lankan military intelligence. But he allegedly began his career with the LTTE as a collaborator. According to the Canadian court records, Vignarajah, whose LTTE code name was "Wimalaratne," informed the Tigers about the finances of both clients from whom the guerrillas then extorted funds. He rose rapidly; by 1986, Wimalaratne had become a close aide to Tiger co-leader Gopalawansa Prabhakaran—also "Wimalaratne."

The following year, the Tigers launched a bloody campaign against Indian peacekeepers who had been sent to the Jaffna peninsula by Gandhi to guarantee a fragile peace accord with the Sri Lankan government. That November, India Today, a New Delhi-based mass-market newsmagazine, published a shocking cover photo showing armed Tigers slaughtering over the bodies of slain Indian peacekeepers. According to former Tigers interviewed by Macdonald's and a forensic photo analysis cited in the Toronto court records, Vignarajah was one of the armed men in the cover photo. On their court submission, the RCMP say that under questioning Vignarajah "denied killing anyone," although he also said "if he did kill anyone he was following orders."

Little did the Tigers know that Mahathir's quoted confession was in fact, co-operating with Sri Lankan military intelligence the whole time. The high-ranking intelligence official who controlled Wimalaratne told Macdonald's that Vignarajah was recruited as a spy in 1982. Sri Lanka's intelligence service came to regard him as a top agent after he confirmed information obtained from a captured Tiger guerrilla that led to a raid on a major armory in Vignarajah's home town on Jan. 9, 1986. The raid, in which the Tigers' deputy leader was killed, was a staggering blow to the LTTE—and remains the largest weapons seizure by the army in the civil war. But in 1989, after quitting his job at the bank the year before, Vignarajah told his controller that the LTTE's ruthlessness leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, suspected him of being a spy—and asked for help to flee the country. The intelligence

In fact, during a three-week investigation into the murky Vignarajah affair, Macdonald has learned that:

- Vignarajah's career as a double agent continued in Canada. A senior Sri Lankan intelligence officer says that he was actively passing information to the Sri Lankan authorities while in the RCMP's employ. Other sources say that he was also supplying RCMP secrets to the LTTE—classified as "a terrorist organization" by the Canadian government, and linked by European Union officials to the Mafia and drug trafficking.
- CSIS was fully aware of Vignarajah's Tiger past, according to federal sources. But, waiting to capitalize on it for its own ends, they did not inform the RCMP.
- Vignarajah's conversion to Sri Lankan intelligence could hardly have come as a surprise to the Montreal-based firm's translator's job on the strength of two letters of recommenda-

tion from the military intelligence directorate in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital.

- Vignarajah is not alone. More than 30 leading figures from various Tamil rebel groups, as well as up to 10,000 former guerrillas, are currently residing in Canada, most of them having gained refugee status by concealing their past. Some of them, police sources say, are actively involved in fund-raising efforts for the Tamil independence struggle—efforts that also involve coercion. Some of the funds are directed towards arms purchases. "If an independent Tamil nation is ever formed," one federal official dryly noted, "half of those people will end up in the cabinet."

Most of Canada's 150,000 Tamils live in the Toronto area, and that is where Vignarajah settled when he arrived in the country as a



refugee claimant seven years ago. Vignarajah was raised in the southern Sri Lankan town of Mahaweli, the son of a wealthy coconut plantation owner. "I'm from a very rich family," he said in an interview—last week. After completing the equivalent of high school in 1970, he studied banking and got "a senior job" in the nearby city of Jaffna at the Bank of Ceylon in 1982. By that time, ethnic tensions between the country's ruling, Sinhalese population and Tamil minority had respectively erupted in violence—largely at the expense of the Tamil.

SPECIAL REPORT

officer wrote him the two letters of recommendation. Eighteen months after Nishanian's picture had appeared on the cover of *India Today*, he travelled to Canada and applied for refugee status using his real name. According to an immigration official familiar with his file, Vignarajah claimed he was fleeing persecution not only from the Tigers, but also the Sri Lankan authorities. Said the official: "It was your standard Tamil story: 'I'm being persecuted by the Tigers' as well as from the government side.' Vignarajah would only say, 'I came to this country because I like the peaceful life.'"

The Immigration and Refugee Board accepted Vignarajah as a refugee on Dec. 22, 1986. Before acquiring landed immigrant status, he passed a standard, secret security check conducted by



Escape from last week's bomb: The most intense fighting in the world.

That statement is all the more incredible given the following twist: according to a high-ranking federal official in a different branch of the government, CSIS had identified Vignarajah as a senior Tiger for the RCMP to never work for the RCMP. "My understanding is that they knew he was working for the RCMP translating wiretaps and they wanted him to go back in and become an activist with local Tiger front groups," said the official. CSIS agent Gerald Baker, who specializes in Tamil investigations, had no comment. "I'm not able to talk about source investigations," said Baker.

A few months after the winning protest, sources in the Tamil community tipped an embarrassed RCMP off to Vignarajah's Tiger past. When questioned, the court papers say, Vignarajah offered to provide the force with intelligence on the LTTE and intelligence funds. Instead, he was recruited in a raid on Vignarajah's house that day, investigators found the following items: the 1986 edition of the *Shooker's Bible*, a weapons manual issued by outlaw militia groups, transcripts and tapes from the RCMP Tamil wiretaps, electronic equipment allegedly stolen from the RCMP wire rooms, and a ransom sliding that he was employed by "the RCMP Central Government Secret Intelligence Service."

In fact, Vignarajah was an agent for an intelligence service at the time—but it had nothing to do with the RCMP. Vignarajah's former Sri Lankan controller says that his banker re-established contact with military intelligence after settling in Toronto, and

Sri Lanka's agony

The bombing was clearly tried to maximize the death toll. On July 24, during a weekend rush hour, a huge explosion opened open two cars of a commuter train as it stopped at a crowded station. The twisted wreckage from the train, which had been carrying workers home from the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo, was strewn with charred bodies, dismembered limbs and clothing. The blast killed 78 people and injured 450—the latest outrage in a cycle of atrocities that have ravaged Sri Lanka during 15 years of civil war. At the same time, a fierce battle raged around an army base at Mulleriyva in the country's north coast, claimed an estimated 1,600 combatants. Said John Thompson of Toronto's MacKenzie Institute, a think-tank that specializes in conflict analysis: "This is the most intense fighting in the world right now. It's equal to the Sri Lankan civil war during the Vietnam War."

Sri Lanka's population of 18 million people is roughly one-third Tamil, and for centuries they lived as peaceful neighbors of the island's Sinhalese. But the colonization of Ceylon brought their kingdoms under single rule. After independence in 1948, the Sinhalese majority began flexing its muscle—often resulting in mob violence against Tamils. Guerrilla activity by Tamil resistance groups such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, founded in 1972, escalated rapidly after 1983, when Sinhalese extremists went on a rampage in retaliation for a Tiger ambush that killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers. More than 3,000 Tamils died. By 1987, the warring Tigers had gained control of most of the Jaffna peninsula and other parts of northern Sri Lanka.

They have also killed more than 3,500 civilians in the course of the civil war, according to the Sri Lankan government. The most frightening attacks are carried out by Black Tigers, a sub-like corps of LTTE suicide bombers that assassinated then-Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993. In 1991, a female Black Tiger killed then-Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, herself and 16 others by detonating plastic explosives she wore in a body pack.

Amnesty International has accused the Tigers of "gross human rights abuses," including kidnapping both Tamil and Sinhalese civilians. But it also condemns the Sri Lankan government. The watchdog agency's 1996 annual report cites cases of rape, torture and summary executions by the army and police, as well as 30,000 unexplained disappearances since 1988. With an estimated 50,000 dead so far, Sri Lanka's dirty civil war rages on.

"I have valuable information on LTTE operations in Canada, as well as on LTTE's international operations," until the end of last year. At the same time, at least two Tamil police informants in Toronto—one of whom identified Vignarajah to the RCMP as a Tiger in the first place—say that Vignarajah was passing Mosley secrets to senior LTTE officials (an allegation he denies). "There was some kind of communication going on between Vignarajah and the Tigers," said one of the informants. "Why do you think he had the tapes and the transcripts?"

Vignarajah is only one of dozens of alleged high-ranking Tamil terrorists who have entered Canada under false pretences. According to interviews with government officials and Tamil sources in both Sri Lanka and Canada, including former senior Tigers and supporters of the terrorist organization, more than 30 leading figures from various Tamil rebel groups are currently residing in Canada, in addition, says one former high-ranking Tamil militant now in Toronto, there are between 8,000 and 10,000 of his countrymen in Canada who have received

military training in guerrilla boot camps—and fought in the civil war. Some Tamils take issue with the history of persecution they have suffered, that fact should not be surprising. And, they add, Canadians should not be dismayed that many attempt to hide their past when they make refugee claims. "They were involved in armed activities and they all had because of the system," said the ex-militant. "If you make up stories, then you're OK. But if you try to be honest to the government and tell the truth, they'll say, 'We believe you did a crime against humanity.'"

Canadian government, law enforcement and intelligence officials are quite aware of the extent of the Tamil rebel network in Canada, and claim that those who are still active are using the country as a base for intelligence gathering and raising money for

arms shipments. Said one law enforcement official who insisted on anonymity: "It's amazing that there are so many people who have been trained by a group that our government says is a terrorist organization, and we're letting them in. I just can't believe how stupid we are."

Their presence also helps explain why Canada's Tamil community is rife with fear, paranoia and exorbitant. "Most of the Tamils here are hawking people who pay taxes and hate the Tigers," says one Tamil immigrant who recently learned that a relative had been executed in a Tiger-run prison camp in northern Sri Lanka. "The Tigers are always threatening death and asking for money for the war back home." Added a Tamil community activist who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal: "I love this country but I have to tell you that new Tiger people are arriving every day. Canada should lock them all out. Why are they letting the civil war harem? It's being the old victims to the new society."

Vignarajah is not the only ex-Tiger to become entangled in this dilemma. Thanyangan Sivakumar, a former major in the LTTE, has been involved in a seven-

year battle with Canadian immigration authorities. According to witnesses filed last year in the Federal Court of Canada, he was an informant for CSIS from 1989 until last year. Sivakumar, 38, is the most senior Tiger known to have taken up residence in Canada. He joined the rebel organization as a student organizer at the age of 21 in 1976, and was kicked out by leader Prabhakaran 10 years later. In between, he oversaw the mass production of LTTE attack arms, was instrumental in the Tigers' chief of intelligence and acted as the military commander in charge of the defence of Jaffna in 1987.

He made a refugee claim in Canada on June 30, 1989. In fact, Sivakumar, and a former LTTE captain who was also interviewed by Mosley's, are the only Tamil militants who have disclosed



others by detonating plastic explosives she wore in a body pack.

Amnesty International has accused the Tigers of "gross human rights abuses," including kidnapping both Tamil and Sinhalese civilians. But it also condemns the Sri Lankan government. The watchdog agency's 1996 annual report cites cases of rape, torture and summary executions by the army and police, as well as 30,000 unexplained disappearances since 1988. With an estimated 50,000 dead so far, Sri Lanka's dirty civil war rages on.

More than 30 top Tamil militants are in Canada

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SPECIAL REPORT

While many of the consultants are keeping a low profile, those who are still active are primarily involved in raising funds for the Tigers through donation drives, concerts—and extortion. Typically, Tamil who are targeted are asked to pay six per cent of their gross income to Tiger bag-

That money, the source adds, is used to buy arms. Often, the weapons are purchased in South Africa and then shipped



Ex-Tiger Sleuthsman: CSIS Announces a Lot of Things

That climate of terror seaches deep into Canada's Tamil community. And Vignarajah, for one, insists that he fears for his life. "All over the place there is big danger for me," the banker laments. Given the double agent's current incarceration, and the presence of Tiger militants in both his homeland and adopted land, that is hardly surprising.

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Simply Perfect.



From anguish to anger

A slow search and a shortage of answers frustrate the families of the TWA victims

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

In the final half hour that preceded the disaster that brought their lives to an end, the three-member cockpit crew of Trans World Airlines Flight 800 believed exactly as they had in dozens of previous flights. They went through their pre-takeoff checklists while taxiing, and the pilot Boeing 747 aircraft lifted its wheels up from John F. Kennedy International Airport en route to Penn without difficulty at 8:19 p.m. on July 17. For the next 11 1/2 minutes, the aircraft climbed smoothly and uneventfully out across the Atlantic Ocean to a height of 15,700 feet. Then, just before the aircraft's voice recorder ran about to record and start logging again, as it did every 31 minutes, there was a quarter-second crack of noise—then everything else for the 230 people on board ended forever.

By the end of last week, investigators probing the crash of TWA Flight 800 into the sea off Long Island seemed to be moving slowly but

increasingly towards the conclusion, as expressed by special agent James Kallstrom of the FBI's anti-terrorism task force, that the cause was "a catastrophic explosion by some sort of bomb." That belief, a suspicion from the outset, was bolstered by the discovery late last week of that brief, unexplained noise on the voice-recorder tape, newly recovered from the ocean floor. Along with the absence of any proof of mechanical failure, flames or warnings, evidence pointed increasingly to sabotage. Then, early on Saturday morning in Atlanta came another reminder that it is never easy to detect against deliberate acts of terror.

A pipe bomb inside a knapsack went off at the city's Centennial Olympic Park during an open-air rock concert that had drawn a crowd of thousands. It killed one woman, a man died of a heart attack, and 186 others were injured.

But after a week of frustration, fury, heartbreak and so much anguish of finger-pointing over both the cause of the TWA crash and events in its aftermath, it appeared that investigations may still take months to reach official conclusions. That, even if they confirm sabotage, it may be years—if ever—before U.S. law enforcement authorities establish

Divers getting ready. Looking for bodies and clues



Collapsing where flight attendant Marlene Dodge, a spokeswoman, says aircraft

joined to endure much longer lawsuits and more intense scrutiny of their baggage. Hotel and car-hire baggage checks it was immediately eliminated, and passengers now must clearly label all baggage, answer a series of questions about its contents and carry photo identification. New explosive-detection devices now being tested in San Francisco and Atlanta will likely be installed in most major airports at an estimated initial cost of \$1.4 billion, with a similar amount required each year for maintenance. The measures, said Clinton, will apply to "every plane, every cabin, every cargo hold, every time."

But all that was of little solace to family and friends of the victims, who had other concerns to accompany their sorrow. Many complained about the delay in recovering bodies and personal effects. More than a week after the crash, searchers had recovered just more than half of the bodies and a mere fraction of the wreckage. Publicly, U.S. authorities said that their priority was finding and retrieving the bodies. But many of the remains were buried under the wreckage wreckage, severely hampering the recovery task. And, unofficially, some law enforcement officials expressed concern that if they put all their efforts towards retrieving the bodies, key evidence of a possible crime might wash away.

In either event, the search for clues and bodies took place at a painstakingly slow pace, largely because of rapidly shifting, unknown and dangerous conditions facing the divers on-site. Loaded down by equipment that included 120 shoes and helmets weighing about 30 lb, they worked in 15-minute shifts, diving to a deep 130 feet below the surface. At that level, sunlight is reduced to one per cent of its surface brightness, decreasing visibility to 15 feet. Divers constantly ran the risk of becoming entangled in the tangled debris covering their way to the ship above, as well as in a mass of electrical wire protruding from the wreckage. Another problem, said one diver, noted Civil Party Officer Kevin O'Grady in a videotape shown to reporters, was that "Some of the pieces [of wreckage] are pretty big. They're sharp, and they're all over the place."

At the same time, many mourners complained that authorities were not keeping them informed of new developments in the case, such as the discovery of evidence pointing towards terrorism, or the sometimes grumpy state of recovered bodies. Joseph Lynch of Houston, who lost his wife and two young daughters, was one of a group of mourners who called a news conference to plead with authorities to "give us all the information they have in so far as they get it." Said Lynch: "We are not children. We have already lost everything we could possibly lose." As well, some mourners sharply criticized TWA for its initial slow pace and failure to respond to requests for information as the hours immediately after the crash.

Forty-five of the dead were French citizens, and many of their relatives—as well as U.S. government officials—were particularly critical of the slow recovery of the bodies. Some family members wanted France to be allowed to join the investigation, and French Transport Minister Bernard Pons insisted French submarine-hunting planes could have found the wreckage faster.

But by week's end, the investigators did have some key evidence to consider. Two of the jet-bus's first engines had been located, and plans were being made to haul them from the deep. Along with the voice-recorder black box, which captured four audio channels from the cockpit, divers also recovered the slightly waterlogged flight-data-recorder black box. That was critical technical information about the plane's last moments that could help investigators rule out the possibility that they were hoaxed up," said Bernard Lortholaud, director of aviation safety for the National Transportation Safety Board. Together, they bear witness to the final moments of TWA Flight 800—and may be the key to how and why it fell from the sky. □

LUKE FISHER in Ottawa

SELLING 'MADE IN CANADA' SECURITY

With explosives constantly becoming more sophisticated—both in content and technology—experts in the field agree that improved detection equipment is an impossible dream. But in the wake of the apparent bombing of TWA Flight 800, several Canadian companies are attracting interest for their state-of-the-art detection equipment.

One of those is Ottawa-based CRAD Tech-

nologies Inc., considered a world leader in the field. Others include Rammer Research Ltd. of Toronto and Scintrex Ltd. of Concord, Ont. CRAD's Orion Explosives Detection System is in use in trials at several Canadian and American airports, including Pearson International in Toronto. Since the crash, says company president Scott Feagan, "We have had our phones ringing off the hook."

The device costs between \$70,000 and

\$150,000. Like those of Scintrex and Rammer, it relies on "sniffer" technology using a mechanism that can "sniff" as little as one-billionth of a gram of chemicals commonly used to manufacture explosives, with a failure rate of 0.1 per cent, the new device has the potential to dominate what could be a huge market. CRAD says that Orion is the only device that meets U.S. requirements. It can examine wreckage to determine a bomb's chemical composition, and the technology, according to Feagan, can be adapted to

keep pace with newly developed plastic explosives. The Canadian military is also interested in its apparent ability to detect land mines. New trials in South Africa indicate that a similar form of technology can also detect narcotics consistently. That capability interests customs officials as well as the RCMP, which has been testing the device since May and plans to work with CRAD to develop a handheld version. The police market holds the potential for 25,000 units in North America alone.

CRAD has received \$5 million in research grants from Canadian and U.S. government agencies under an anti-terrorism agreement between the two countries. Foreign copies that sales of the product this year will hit \$11 million. The company, which has 50 employees, plans to go public to raise at least \$3 million to increase its production capability. Says Feagan, "If it is a known chemical, Orion will find it."

A DEADLY GERM IN JAPAN

Japan asked Canada, the United States and Britain for urgent help in combating a food-poisoning epidemic that has claimed seven lives and made 8,500 people sick. More than 8,400 people—mostly children—were affected in the past two weeks in the western city of Sakai alone, where the O-157 colon bacteria was traced to school lunches.

POWER PLAY IN RUSSIA

Flaunting his desire to succeed President Boris Yeltsin, the recently appointed head of Russia's Security Council, Alexander Lebed, announced he was forming a new political movement called Truth and Order. Running on a law-and-order platform, the popular 48-year-old former general came third in the first round of Russia's June elections. He plans to incorporate two other moderate parties into his new control alliance.

TO THE DEATH IN TURKEY

A two-month-old hunger strike among leftist prisoners in Turkey's jails claimed six English victim last week—the first woman to die among the 300 inmates taking part. The prisoners, who include radical Muslims, Marxists and urban guerrillas, began their protest in May, demanding better conditions and the closing of Eskişehir jail in western Turkey, known to inmates as The Coffin.

BRAZIL'S CYBER CHILDREN

Brazilian authorities announced that 48 orphans from the streets of Rio de Janeiro will be offered for adoption next month via the Internet. The children's photos as well as biographical data will be posted on the World Wide Web to make it easier for foreigners to adopt dozens of Rio's nearly 5,000 orphans. The Internet will allow parents to choose "without having to walk around an orphanage and take children down in person," said the wife of Rio's French consul, who has adopted two teenagers.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

Lightning injured two women at a Buckingham Palace garden party attended by 8,000 guests. The bolt struck just 80 m from the royal box tent where Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and Prince Charles had taken shelter during a torridous outbreak. The wounded guests suffered burns, scrapes and bruises.



Many victims of a refugee camp massacre are laid out in mass graves. 'Stracent into hell'

Burundi at the boiling point

Trouble had been brewing between Burundi's Hutu majority and Tutsi minority for three years, leading to an increasing number of civilian murders in recent months. Early last week, the tension boiled over, resulting in a coup by the Tutsi-led armed forces. The flash point came when President Sylvestre Ndirakobuca, a Hutu, tried to attend a funeral for the 340 Tutsi victims of the latest massacre. Ndirakobuca's security troops roared by as an angry crowd belted him with stones and cow dung, forcing him to retreat to his helicopter. By evening, troops surrounded government buildings and Ndirakobuca, 46, was held up in the American Embassy waiting for his life. Another 18 Hutus sought refuge at the German ambassador's residence. Two days later, Maj. Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, declared himself president, saying his military government would restore democracy and stop Burundi's "descent into hell."

The United Nations and the Organisation

of African Unity immediately condemned the coup and refused to recognize the newly declared regime. Across the world, governments and aid groups prepared for the worst, a repetition of the Tutsi-Hutu bloodbath in neighboring Rwanda that took 800,000 lives within three months in 1994.

Aid workers estimate 150,000 people have already died in Burundi's civil war. A precarious balance has existed between the 80-per-cent Hutu population and the Tutsi-led army that has controlled the country since independence in 1962. Buyoya assumed power once before, in a 1987 coup, and is credited with introducing democratic elections and relinquishing power to the first freely elected Hutu president, Evariste Ndayishimiye. But his second term as president, last week, the United Nations was assembling an intervention force, but few countries were willing to commit troops. Meanwhile, Hutu rebels vowed to stop at their fight, saying they wanted to starve the capital, Bujumbura, and ouster Tutsi strongholds, Gitega.

Pushing the peace

But no sooner had the talks scheduled when a faction within erupted. Netanyahu ordered the tanks to the West Bank in response to an Arab attack that killed two Israeli civilians and wounded a third outside Jerusalem. The Israeli prime minister blamed the Palestinian Authority for failing to curb terror. The Palestinian leadership in turn condemned the closure as "another collection punishment." By week's end, Israel also demanded that the authority close three offices operating in East Jerusalem, an area that is not covered under Palestinian self-rule agreements.

It takes 10.10 seconds to reach the finish line. It takes 24 years to reach the starting line.



Sudbury sprinter Robert Esnile has spent a lifetime preparing for the Olympic Games. This summer he represents Canada in Atlanta. Inco is pleased to have helped in his pursuit. We wish him good speed.

Inco

BY JENNIFER WELLS

Pierre Péladoux does a short-stepped shuffle out of his black chauffeur-driven Cadillac and into, of all places, the CyberBar in downtown Montreal. In the bowels of the building 18 Internet-buff computer users wait eager cybercrusaders, one of whom today plays a video game in which the object is to blast stripper babes off those poles they write on. It is not clear whether Péladoux is surprised to hear the computer speaks—"Julius is busy," it says—but he admits he is completely out of his depth. Péladoux is 71. He scores blankly at the screen. Pierre Péladoux does not use computers.

But Quebecor Inc., his \$6-billion printing, publishing and pulp and paper company, is into multimedia, which is why Péladoux's son Erik has opened the CyberBar and explains why Péladoux's pete comes here for lunch. He perches himself on a cyberstool, an effra transomphone George Burns, a little shaky but still very much in the game. On Friday, Péladoux made an all-out bid for 100 per cent of Toronto Sun Publishing Corp., which includes Sun papers in Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Ottawa, and 60 per cent of *The Financial Post*. Given the vertically integrated style and scope of the Quebecor empire—from the talked duty *Le Journal de Montréal* to 218 printing plants to pulp and paper maker Donohue Inc.—the TorStar group would seem to be a logical fit. And Péladoux has been lurking after *The Toronto Sun* ever since it was founded in 1977. If he can get his hands on the group now, he says, he will make it a real performer. "We have the people who can handle that business inside out," he says, criticizing its existing management. In "loosey" distribution, its shaky profits. "Five million on \$260 million," he says, referring to last year's financial performance. "It's a joke. It's really a joke." Quebecor makes a pretty profit of upwards of \$15 million on *Le Journal de Montréal* alone. About the only link with Péladoux has the TorStar, in for its only owned. Boreas Publishers Inc., a community newspaper group. "The management of Boreas is different from the management of the Sun, very much. They've got good management."

Quebec's most controversial media boss sets his sights on a new target

Péladoux's powerplay

Ever since Boreas Communications Inc. put TorStar on the block in May, Péladoux has been seen as the heavyweight contender, which has not at all with some inside the Sun group. Columnist Allan Fotheringham wrote in *The Financial Post* and Toronto Star that the idea of handing Péladoux for a boss "would be too much to stomach." He is, for starters, an ex-ecutive, a closet socialist, and has starred Jews. "In an earlier column, *Post* editor Duane Francis started with a simple declaration: 'I don't want a separatist.' The Pierre Péladoux, the Sun newspaper chain and its control of *The Financial Post*," she said, concluding that, "Péladoux may work as a legally buy this chain but he won't own a single soul who works here."

Péladoux has been winning in this controversy for years. As Quebecor has grown aggressively by acquisition, starting 40 years ago with a munitioned ownership, it has become a powerful symbol of Quebec, but in the Caline de dépit et placement du Québec, under Québec and the Group Desjardins. Péladoux personally has aligned himself with former Cdn chairman Jean Gagnon, who has once considered a possible corporate bet; and Québec Deputy Premier Bernard Landry. He has tolerated far ahead from the files of Laurent Beaudoin, the kindly television chief of Boreas Inc. At the time of the referendum last fall,

when Beaudoin exhorted his employees to vote "non," Péladoux crunched what he saw as Beaudoin's interference. "I said I wouldn't do that and I said it's not your job to do so either. You have nothing to do with it. Get the hell out of there."

Today, Péladoux, a philosophy and law grad, is arguing semantics. "I have not supported independence in Québec," he says. "What I have said is I would not be frightened if Quebec could or would become independent. I will not entertain a post-independence economic class theory." There's nothing to prove that. Nothing at all. Still, it's a big joke. He likes such drinking to what he calls "light moves, Drouin, Jack [and] Francoeur." The talk of separatism leads to the more disconcerting issue of ethnic nationalism, which has been fuelled by a six-page-old story in *Le Soleil* magazine in which Péladoux was quoted as saying: "I have a lot of respect for Jews, but they take up too much space." The profile caused a storm of controversy, and the magazine quickly apologized for a number of misrepresentations. But Péladoux stands by the contentious quote. "I had nothing to retract," he says. "In my mind I was not attacking anybody. I was not attacking Jews, only one particular Jew."

Still, Péladoux has been stung by the most recent criticisms. "It's cheap stuff," he says of the Toronto editorial. "The funny thing is,

there couldn't be a better meat than what they're doing. That guy [Fotheringham], that girl [Francis]." In her column, Francis says Quebecor should be concerned that, should it bid to be successful, readers could boycott the paper. "I think she should boycott herself. I really do," says Péladoux. Later, he muses that, for Francis's sake, he hopes someone else bids for the *Post*.

In the end, the splitting match, which has made for good media sport, may come to nothing at all. "I think frankly some of the media stuff is bullshit," says a TorStar board member who happens to be Jewish. "For anybody to suggest that the Jewish community is driving Péladoux out of this is preposterous." Peter Warshaw, a founder of *The Toronto Star* who still writes a column for the paper, says it's "fair to say that [Péladoux] is every Sun journalist's worst nightmare. One of the problems of Péladoux apart from the political perceptions, which are probably overstated, is that he's efficient, and any newspaper that puts an efficient proprietor has a lot of people worried."

Certainly Quebecor, led by Charles Correll, president of Quebecor Printing Inc., has Sun conflicting in mind, should it win it

Péladoux in his Montreal office: he means it sound as though he has already bagged his latest acquisition

had been the hope of controlling shareholder Ted Rogers to start a high priced auction with the Sun sale. That has not happened yet. As of Friday, Conrad Black's Hollinger had not stepped forward, though president David Butler, on his way from Baltimore to Philadelphia promoting Hollinger stock, said he was still interested in *The Toronto Star* and *The Financial Post*. Hollinger already has 19.9 per cent of the *Post*. Bay Street financier Andy Series took a look last week, sent representatives into the war rooms of both the *Post* and the *Star*, and gave it a pass. "If someone is going to buy it at these prices we are going to enjoy it very much from the sidelines," says Series. Winnipeg broadcaster Jerry Auger, who talked with TorStar CEO Paul Godfrey only on and faced with a buying of his own, gave it a pass. So does Auger. "The world is overpriced at this hour," Bay Street analysts speculated last week that a buyout could be priced at \$27 a share, or \$440 million.

A management group led by Godfrey did put in a bid. Frasier Management has six privates. The amount of information made to outside bidders is shrewd, an Auger says, "pretty thin." Certainly Correll, who would take a leading role in TorStar's future under Quebecor, has been unable to give the bidders a clear view on the fiscal state of *The Financial Post*, which does not report earnings separately. Péladoux says he can't get too excited about the *Post*. In as much as it's not profitable, it'd be pushed to get out of it. Black wants it. Others want it, too. All they want it, they get it.

It has been the stated intention of the management group to keep the *Star* and the *Post* as one. Godfrey will not elaborate just how he intends to do that and in-

Calgary Sun newsmen: We have the people who can handle that business inside out

crease profits, which the management group's equity investors, and its lenders, will surely be expecting. It is often a irony of management buyouts that those who promise increased profits are often the same people who have failed to deliver them to date. "It creates the speculation that maybe the bid is winking the bottle," says Worthington. "Maybe the people who should be out are doing the cutting." Paul Godfrey does not take the bait. "There is no doubt that anybody who invests and be seeking better profits," he says, without revealing how they are to be realized. "I don't give a damn about *Post* Godfrey," says Péladoux. "I got a

BUSINESS

phase call this morning from a very important shareholder in the Sun. He wants to sell his shares at a decent price. He was hoping to tell me that Godfrey didn't have it at all. He said, "Those guys are jerks."

Philadelan makes it sound as though he has already bagged this latest acquisition. His arrogance has not been recently acquired. Philadelan is still, in many ways, the same entrepreneur: the tall, friendly, of all things, including the past alcoholism that Fotheringham has dismissed for Joe. "He's an alcoholic all the way!" says Philadelan of the columnist. ("Philadelan," says Fotheringham.) "He was picked up off the street drunk by Mr. Conrad Black." ("Conrad," says the columnist.) "I haven't taken a drink since 22 years," says Philadelan. He says he still diagnosed his manic depression 15 years ago. "I tell you the drinks, the mood, the killing you sell, there is something wrong." But he relates a much-repeated story that he made incompetent business decisions before he started taking lithium carbonate to smooth the mood swings. The *Philadelan Journal*, which he started in 1997, was not ironic folly, he argues. "I just made a bad move," he says, adding that his lawyer and accountant supported the plan. "There were a lot of other white-collar criminals in court, and there were a lot of black people." That, he says, was the membership group he was seeking. "We had a very strong sports section and black people are interested in sports.... What I didn't know is that black people are very conservative people. Did you know that? They will not move from the paper they are already in." And, he says, the *Times* kept blowing up the rates of delivery because Quebecor took a loss of \$15 million on the short-lived *Journal*.

Philadelan's lifestyle has been examined so thoroughly in his verbal blunders: the Las Vegas spread he flies in and out of each day via helicopter; the M-16 rifle he keeps under his robe-sleeved bed; the various nervous tics and the offhanded way he has produced. He talks about his golf after the death of his first wife, Raymonde,

who died in a Swiss clinic in 1998 after a long battle with cancer and booze. (That marriage produced two daughters and two sons. Both sons, Erik and Pierre Karl, are key Quebecor executives today. Erik runs Quebecor Multimedia from Montreal. Pierre Karl, who, like his father, studied law and philosophy, runs Quebecor Printing's European operations from Paris.)

The eccentric life of Pierre Philadelan has often overshadowed his business accomplishments. Last year, Donohue bought pulp and paper maker Orono Corp. for \$1.1 billion. Philadelan says he will go again. "That is, make another acquisition, in pulp and paper. Quebecor Printing's revenues surpassed \$3 billion, with contracts to print *People* magazine, *TV Guide*, *Macdonald's*, Canadian *Time* catalogues and on and on. It was a wily Philadelan, who, before British publisher Robert Maxwell's tumble from a yacht deck, scooped up printing plant assets from Maxwell for a song.

Philadelan has a reputation for getting much "at my price, the way I want them." He will not, of course, reveal what his first price in the Toronto "There's no way I'll go crazy to buy a paper," he says. This week, Rogers and its financial advisers, Rothchild Canada Ltd., will review the bids. Ted Rogers is not bound to lock his shares into any of the bids, nor, for that matter, to even enter into negotiations with any of the bidders. By week's end, there was more direct speculation with any offers, Rogers could instead choose to buy up the Sun group and sell it piecemeal. That presumes that the bids are of the broad variety, and that Rogers himself is not in any hurry to sell. Neither assumption may be accurate. When Paul Godfrey confided his staff

on Friday that the management bid had been made, he acknowledged that for *Sun* and *Postmedia* there will be "sleepless nights ahead" as all await Rogers's next move. This does not apply to Philadelan, who, having made his bid, turned quickly to other matters, donating \$1 million to the flood victims of the Saguenay, then retreating to his Lac Beauport home. □



Radler: a cautious course over management philosophy

Andell and, adding that the company would seek to sell Southern News content to other media companies.

But Radler was distinctly unenthusiastic. In fact, both he and Black had said repeatedly that they want CP to survive, albeit in a more economical form. "Our view is that this country requires a coast-to-coast service in both languages available to all newspaper publishers," Radler said. Macdonald's from Chicago, where he doubles as publisher of *Hollinger's Chicago Sun Times*. Radler added that he will sit down with Southern executives soon to review their plans. But earlier when asked if Hollinger feared an expanded

Southern News operation, he said "The current Southern News package that I've seen we wouldn't buy. Well, maybe if he [Andell] charges me one dollar a week per newspaper."

Andell and his new boss may also be on a collision course over management philosophy. Southern has been attempting to break down the barrier that separates individual newspapers in order to implement a more centralized approach. Hollinger's style is the opposite: the company allows local publishers to run their own shows as long as they meet financial targets. Radler says it is too early to pass judgment on Southern's moves to centralize some planning, sales and editorial operations, but it is an area that Hollinger will be examining.

Meanwhile, rumors persisted that Andell would soon leave Southern. The Southern CEO did not return calls last week. But a company circular shows that if he does depart, he would take with him a golden parachute worth as much as \$2 million.

DAVID ESTOK

Let's give him a great big pat on the back.

(If We Can Catch Up To Him)

Congratulations Donovan Bailey on your outstanding 100 metre Olympic Medal performance in Atlanta.

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Ross Laver



Personal Business

A jury system for jobs

On the scale of life's pleasures, an annual performance appraisal ranks somewhere down there with a hot car, but then again, if your boss was not the only person who passed judgment on your work, imagine if your colleagues, your subordinates—even customers and people in other departments with whom you regularly deal—all had an opportunity to anonymously evaluate how you did your job.

The idea might seem frightening, but it is one of the hottest new management trends of the 1990s. Known as 360-degree feedback or multisource assessment, the

idea might seem frightening, but it is one of the hottest new management trends of the 1990s. Known as 360-degree feedback or multisource assessment, the concept has spread like wildfire through corporate America and is now catching on in Canada. "The 360 approach reflects a cultural shift in the workplace," says Jane Huberbusch, manager of human resources planning for Toronto-based Consumers' Gas Co., which has 3,700 employees in Ontario, Quebec and New York state. "We see it as moving away from a paternalistic, command-and-control environment to a more participatory management style."

Four years ago, when Consumers' Gas decided to embrace multiple evaluations, it turned for advice to Mark Edwards, a management consultant and guru of the 360-feedback movement. Edwards and his partner, Ann Flax, created the first 360-degree feedback in the mid-1980s. Since then, they have helped to implement the system at more than 100 blue-chip companies, including IBM, General Electric, Disney, Federal Express, American Airlines and AT&T.

According to Edwards, the use of feedback from multiple sources rather than a single supervisor provides a more balanced measure of performance, making it less likely that assessments will be influenced by politics, favoritism and friendship. What's more, feedback from peers and work associates usually has a more powerful impact than information from a single source. If your boss complains that you've been slacking off, you might just ignore him. But what if 12 other people who work closely with you say the same thing?

Most companies that implement 360-feedback reserve the information purely for career development and to identify training needs. A growing number, however, go further and allow the results to influence pay and promotions. The difference rests on who sees the information. In the first approach, the findings are given only to the affected employee, who can then decide whether to keep them confidential. In the second, the feedback is automatically shared with the supervisor.

Last summer, Miller Western Industries Ltd., a family-owned forestry company based in Edmonton, decided to introduce

360-feedback for about 250 supervisory and managerial staff. By early 1997, the firm hopes to expand the system to all 1,100 employees. "There was a lot of anxiety when we started, but it quickly faded," says human resources manager Kyle Huberbusch. "I think employees at all levels like to know where they stand and how they're doing." One of the best aspects of the process, he says, is that it encourages staff to think about "soft skills" such as their ability to work with others, participate in problem solving and generate new ideas—issues that aren't always the easiest to deal with.

So far, at least, Miller Western has used the performance review only for developmental purposes. But having tried 360-feedback for four years, Consumers' Gas is now considering whether to make it a formal part of the performance-assessment process. "I have a feeling a lot of people would see that as the logical next step," Huberbusch says. She herself is an avid music convert, having learned something about her own management style. "At one point, someone wrote that I interrupted people when I spoke and that I was coming across as impatient. Actually it was just enthusiasm, but I did and was aware of how others perceived me and I was able to change." For others, however, the experience of being rated by their peers and subordinates isn't quite so positive. Says Huberbusch cautiously, "There are times when we have to do a lot of counseling."

The latest trend
in performance
appraisal uses
feedback from
colleagues, bosses
and underlings



**Mike's
Picks**

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MOLSON BLUES

A steep drop in spending profit contributed to a stunning \$20.5-million loss last year at Molson Co. Ltd. The Toronto-based company blamed its faltering primarily on the cost of selling its chemical division, but slower beer sales and weak results at its Beaver Lumber stores were also factors.

SEARS SLASHES STAFF

Sears Canada has cut 1,200 staff in hopes of boosting profits. The 110-store retail chain has already cut 54,000 jobs over the past five years as it tries to cope with weak consumer spending and the growth of discount and specialty stores.

HOUSING REBOUND

The pace of new home construction rose sharply between April and June. Canada Mortgage and Insurance Corp. says. The number of housing starts was 11.3 percent higher than in the same period in 1995. "These are the best results in the last six quarters," said Gilles Poulin, the agency's chief economist.

DIGITAL CALGARY

Calgary is likely to become the first Canadian city with digital cable TV. Shaw Communications Inc. plans to introduce digital services this fall, for about \$19 a month more than conventional service. The technology will make it possible for cable operators to offer more channels with superior picture and sound quality.

BANKS TEAM UP

CIBC and the Bank of Nova Scotia are setting up a new company to handle cheque processing and checks/clearing services. The move will reduce expenses but may eventually lead to large-scale layoffs. The Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal and Toronto-Dominion Bank announced a similar deal in early July.

CARMAKERS COMPLAIN

Several Asian automakers are unhappy with a new Transport Canada regulation effectively requiring dual airbags in all new vehicles by September 1997. A new Canadian law, implemented since the rule will add hundreds of dollars to the cost of new economy models. The carmakers have been eliminating seatbelts as standard equipment on many models in order to save money.



Farmers demanding support in August '96 grain under one hand

Battling over the right to sell wheat

The Alberta government has waded into the controversy over the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, a federal agency that sells grain to more than 60 countries. For weeks, hundreds of farmers in Saskatchewan have staged noisy protests demanding that Ottawa end the board's monopoly on exports so they can sell some of their grain on the open market. Now, Alberta has proposed a new provincial agency that would buy grain and

market it system could trigger an increase in Canadian wheat exports to the United States. A federal review committee recently recommended that farmers be allowed to export most types of barley, while preserving the board's mandate as the sole buyer and seller of most western-grown wheat. Goodale is seeking industry consent before deciding whether to act on the recommendations.

will sit on the U.S. open market. Complaining that Ottawa is acting too slowly in sorting out the jurisdictional issues, the province has asked the Alberta Court of Appeal to decide whether the wheat board's rules are legally binding.

Meanwhile, about 150 farmers who support the wheat board launched their own protest outside federal Agriculture Minister Ralph Goodale's Regina office. Shouting slogans such as "All grain under the board," they argued that farmers will ultimately suffer if the agency is significantly weakened. They are supported by Manitoba growers who fear that moving to an open-market system could trigger an increase in Canadian wheat exports to the United States. A federal review committee recently recommended that farmers be allowed to export most types of barley, while preserving the board's mandate as the sole buyer and seller of most western-grown wheat. Goodale is seeking industry consent before deciding whether to act on the recommendations.



SUDS ON A STICK

It might not be the perfect dessert on a hot summer day. A German company has introduced the world's first frozen treats made from beer. Containing 1.5 percent alcohol, they will sell for about \$1.16. Under German law, buyers have to be 16 or older. There are no plans to sell them in Canada.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

An AIDS drug and the law

Canada's best-known biotechnology company is going to court to fight a decision awarding an Atlanta university the U.S. patent rights to a popular AIDS drug known as 3TC. Biotech Inc.

Inc. of Lowell, Mass., says that the U.S. patent office erred in granting the rights to Emory University, adding that the company will "vigorously" challenge the decision. The drug, sold under the trade name Epivir, is commonly used with AZT, which is produced by Glaxo Wellcome PLC of London, as a chemical "cocktail" that combats AIDS-related symptoms. North

American sales of 3TC totalled \$55 million during its first three months on the market this year. Some analysts predict that sales could reach \$400 million by the end of 1996. The success of the drug has been a key reason behind the recent strong showing of the company's stock. Scientists at Emory University claim that their research led to the discovery of the drug.



Peter C. Newman Duane Steele imparts Canadian culture, too

The demise of Toronto's prime literary imprint, Coach House Press, earlier this month has been widely lauded as a body blow to Canadian culture. It's as if the disappearance of this venerable and eminently worthy publishing house symbol and its end of the Canadian dream.

I don't think so. Our culture—the reason we're Canadians rather than Texans, Balis or Americans—is only vaguely connected to those late-themed downtown Toronto publishers who slosh around Prozac, confidently setting the national agenda. The country's culture isn't reckoned by how many angels can dance on the head of Margaret Atwood.

Our true culture—as opposed to the intellectual pretensions that serve mainly to camouflage it—is much closer to the ground, starting with each of us, central to everything we do and think. It defines who we are, what we feel, how we live and love, what makes us laugh or cry. It's the way we know ourselves and each other. As Bernard Clardy, the communications guru who is one of the most down-to-earth people I know, it is the web of personal relationships. It is the images that allow us to live together in communities. It is the element in which we live.

Summer is the best time to observe Canadian culture at ground level. The music festivals that colonize the country's parks and shorelines serve as a kind of national folk, resonating with the country's mood, giving off the beat and harmonies that reverberate with the true pulse of the people's vibrations.

Last week, my wife, Abbie, and I spent most of the weekend at the Mountain Music Festival at Merritt, a lumber settlement of 1,500 nestled into the Nicola Valley, some 170 km northwest of Vancouver. In its fourth year, the festival, which attracted an impressive crowd estimated as high as 65,000 over its four days, featured some of the best of current Canadian as well as imported country music, including the legendary Johnny Cash.

Country, which at singular times used to be called cowboy music, is in one enough to parody by picking such absurd song titles as, "If the Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know It's My," or "You Got Them in My Eyes from Lying on My Back Chair" over New. The late Steve Goodman, a wonderfully witty Chicago troubadour, once composed the essential elements of country songs in one verse of his classic, "The New Man Got Me by My Name."

It went: "I've seen the dog/Got drunk and died/And I never went to prison/And I ain't around this farm/That's been the same/And you know when Mom broke out/Late Christmas/She drove her pickup laundry truck/Right into a train."

But at her best, country musicians sang and play in search of their own humanity. We listen to their songs and see inside ourselves. That's why their music and audience reactions to it tends to

reflect people's vital concerns. Their feel for what really matters runs true to the core of our deepest emotions. Messrs. Gallup, Alcorn or Reid.

What the country singers are probing these days are the traditional virtues of faith and compassion, the idea that the only mercy that counts is from the depths of one being to the heart of another, that love is love money—you can't give it away if you've never had it, and, yes, that love is as good as it gets. Ladies, Goodbye, Miss America, Preston Manning, the national debt and Coach House Press are off the song sheets.

One of the hottest Canadian country artists right now is Duane Steele, from Hines Creek, Alta., whose "Ain't Got Nothin'" topped the charts last week on the Canadian country music scene, both in the number of radio plays and on the New Country Network radio channel.

After the appearance at Merritt, I spent a couple of hours chatting him up about his band, his, a vintage vehicle that once housed a young Elton Presley and a middle-aged Leonard Cohen, during their Canadian tours. The interview with Duane Steele (whose real name is Duane Spalding, but we're all the adult rock crowd) wasn't hard to arrange. He happens to be my brother-in-law.

At 35, Steele has been on the road with a series of bands since he formed Northern Sunrise at age 14 and later achieved a measure of notoriety as leader of Rock'n'Rollers, which earned him a Jive nomination. On the basis of his current success, he has been signed to a long-term recording contract by Mercury/Polygram in Toronto. "He learned a lot on the road," he says, "meeting customers, other people. It's about you, meeting customers—that's the way you learn to perform."

"Right from the time I was very young, listening to country music in northern Alberta, I felt that the lyric and content of the songs really got to people, which is why I developed such a passion for it," he told me. "It reaches people who might not otherwise be touched with words and thoughts, because they might not be reading books or newspapers. Country music is a great base for relating to people's problems and convictions. At the time you're being the emotions of a country song, you're not worried about political ideologies or national unity. It means more to have personal life intact."

Steele defines country music simply as music of the country, "the used to be stereotyped into one strain of country music, which related only to working with cows or horses." In 1960s and '70s the barbers and diners' type songs were the order of the day, and although we still tend to write about relationships, we also celebrate people's lives. The Canadian element in my song is the fact that I grew up with Goodie Lightfoot singing in my eyes and spent my life absorbing the country."

Doing good thing, too.



"So what do you
want, a medal?"

"Guess what, Leo. I got Olympic
tickets on the 'net to see rowing,
diving and swimming."



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Drugged and derailed

A junkie struggles to get his life on track

TRAINSPOTTING
Directed by Danny Boyle

It is a summer of special-effects blockbusters, it is the dog-eat-dog alternative *Trainspotting*—a funny, exhilarating and occasionally harrowing film about Scottish junkies—struggles. Halfway into the season like an adrenaline rush of reality. For a small (\$3.5 million), independent film, it has already attracted a lot of attention. At the Cannes International Film Festival last May, *Trainspotting* drew a 10-minute standing ovation. It then went on to become the second-highest-grossing film of all time in Britain (after *Four Weddings and a Funeral*). And with critics scrambling to proclaim its landmark significance,

it has been billed as *A Clockwork Orange* for the '90s. That is misleading. While *Trainspotting* has its share of punk nihilism, it is more optimistic than Stanley Kubrick's grim 1961 classic—closer, in fact, to the buoyant spirit of *Pulp Fiction*.

Based on Irvine Welsh's 1996 cult novel, *Trainspotting* tracks the derelict lives of a group of young male heroin addicts in Edinburgh. Its disenchanted hero is Renton (Ewan McGregor), a downcast junkie who struggles to kick his habit, then has an even harder time shaking the gang life that goes with it. His addict friends include Spud (Ewen Bremner), a glib, naive loser who resembles a Scots Ed Grimley; Sick Boy (Glen Lee Miller), a flashy narcissist obsessed with Sean Connery's incarnation

McGregor, portraying the squarer of heroin addiction in devastating terms

as James Bond, and Tommy (Kevin McKidd), an innocent peck who slides into prison hell. Curiously, the gang's most sensory character is drug-free—an alcoholic super named Begbie (Robert Carlyle) who could give Joe Pistone's *Casino* drug lessons in psychopathic violence.

Directed with tremendous energy by British filmmaker Danny Boyle (Olafile Grey)—and stoked by a hot sound track—*Trainspotting* moves at a locomotive clip. The rapid-fire Scottish dialect is rife with profanity and occasionally anticlimactic, but it has to be said. And the acting is superb, with McGregor making the movie's selfish, cynical attitudes eddy lovable.

Trainspotting is ruthlessly unromantic. It portrays the squallor of heroin addiction in devastating terms—the low point is the death of a neglected babe, whose mother responds by groping for another fix. But it does not wallow. The film vividly spells out the attraction of heroin—"Take the best orgasm you've ever had," says Renton, and "multiply it by a thousand." It also downplays the glory of recovery, suggesting that the brutal addiction of middle-class life is just a slower form of self-destruction than junk.

For all its raw attitude, *Trainspotting* is shot with an art-directed style that often veers giddily into the surreal. In a shooting-up scene, the camera literally plunges into the eye of the needle. It also follows Renton as he dives into a filthy toilet to search for morphine suppositories. Sometimes, the druggy special effects go over the top—there is a hallucination of a wreath-headed baby crawling upside down on the ceiling. But in a measure of getting high on surrealism and *Q-Tip* sounds, *Trainspotting* comes as a bracing tonic.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

The tale of a Mississippi race war is just Ku Klux Klumsy

A TIME TO KILL
Directed by Joel Schumacher

It is rare for a Hollywood studio to give an unknown actor the lead role of a major motion picture. It is even rarer for Wendy Fur to put an unknown actor on its cover. But Matthew McConaughey is being heralded as the next James Dean, Marlon Brando and Paul Newman. In *A Time to Kill*, McConaughey (who also appears in the new John Sayles film, *Lone Star*) shows that there is some substance behind the hype. An actor possessed with unworlding good looks and exceptional poise, he gives off that silver-bellied gleam of honesty that makes wise men shy and sex-seekers virtuous. But his performance is squandered in a lurid courtroom drama that has about as much integrity as the *Clay Simpson* trial.

Based on John Grisham's first novel, published in 1989, *A Time to Kill* is about a murder that sets up a race war in Missis-

sippi. A black factory worker (Samuel L. Jackson) kills two rednecks who have brutally raped and assaulted his 10-year-old daughter. McConaughey plays Jake, a young lawyer who risks his career, his marriage and his life to defend him. Sandra Bullock portrays a flirtatious, Porsche-driving law student who does Jake's legwork and tests his fortitude. Kevin Spacey plays the attorney prosecutor. And both Donald Sutherland and his son Kiefer pop up in under-the-radar roles—as a sage legal mentor and a bigoted father.

Self-righteous and unstable, the film unfolds as a Ku Klux Klan costume drama, with cross-burnings, race riots—and a twisty scene of Bullock being tied to a tree. In the courtroom, meanwhile, Jake seeks his client's acquittal with a bogus insanity defense, passionately urging the jury to forget about the law and empathize with the killer's act of vengeance. Facing moral dilemmas, confusing sentiment with truth, and suggesting that violent retribution is a divine right, *A Time to Kill* sacrifices everything that is alarming about the American justice system—all in the name of honest entertainment.

88



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Wherever it hurts, it helps.

Allan Fotheringham

At the feet of the master of the universe

Bill Gates, on entering a room, looks far all the world like a confused Woody Allen. His suit must have cost all of \$150. His rumpled business shirt appears to have been laundered several million trips back. His haircut must have cost him \$150.

This is in a suite far head table guests at the Royal York in Toronto, and the richest man in the world, according to *Forbes* magazine, has the presence of a pharisee who got lost.

If you're a computer geisha who can't have to wear an expensive suit. If you're a computer geisha, you probably don't even know that all humans in the universe don't cost \$150. An IQ that means off the chart means inferior intellect. He is the Nerd of the Century.

Bill Gates, the Harvard dropout and now chairman, CEO and co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, was the youngest billionaire in history. Today at 40, he has finished his \$13-million home in Seattle that overlooks the city and features such trifles as its own indoor rain.

The Geek of the Decade is in Toronto to address some 800 refugees from Bay Street who want to worship at the feet of the master and figure out how they, too, can make more money than Bulgarians, even if they have to walk around with dentures on a cheap suit.

In the corner of the room, standing out among all the dark suits of Toronto, is a muscular young man with puffed hair and a white sports jacket and one of those kooky things in his ear. He is obviously looking out for the richest man in America. He explains, in this curious report, that he is the lone bodyguard but this seems strange, since he insists on talking into his shirt collar to distant others.

"See, darling, again, introduced to the richest man on earth, tells him that I am the L.A. richest man on earth. 'Well,' he says wisely. 'That should keep you fed.' I was the richest man on earth, I would be able to do anything."

What Bill Gates has done to everyone, however, is to divide the world in two. The computer geeks who now have more foot than Cronus chopped the earth in half. No longer is a divide between rich and poor, between black and white. It is progressively divided between the computer literate and the computer illiterate.

A friend who is computer illiterate says those who share his state



refer to themselves as "computer illiterate." John Rolfe's Saul says computer users are "advanced typing."

This is true, completely true, the only problem being that you can't work for a newspaper three days, write a novel, can't be employed by an airline, a stock brokerage firm, a bank or a widget factory unless you can master a machine that—the electronic calculator—makes and on one can communicate more all communication is now between machines rather than humans.

This is called progress and it's why Bill Gates has fortunes that he can't possibly spend, even though he hasn't heard that there are places where you can get your darts done. Those of us who are the last Luddites, hanging in there with the typewriter, now Bill Gates as the laggard why manufacturers must have viewed Henry Ford.

I ask the man in the white sports jacket a few questions and he allows—he's paid not to say such things—that his firm guards some 18 hotshot leaders who might come to harm. Imagine a Bill Gates watched from the Royal York—how much would an ear shipped in an envelope, or a finger, be worth?

This is what happens when there money becomes immaterial, like Canadian Tire scrip. Money means nothing now to Bill Gates, since it has in fact become useless, and so power is the trip. He is increasingly in travelling the world, because he carries in his briefcase—the truth, his briefcase—the future.

He here is Michelangelo, another genius, from the Renaissance. Gates obviously feels they were on the same plane—too far ahead of their time to be understood. One of his plans for his new portable Seattle \$13-million pad—during some 100 millionaires per year—on high-definition TV screens to display images of the world's classic works of art: "Electronic wallpaper."

The guy in the shabby suit, whose money clearly bores him, now runs the world, using the almost-to-all-us knowledge that information is power. A Gates geek planning to South Africa can arrange a photo op with Nelson Mandela within days. Jon Christie, who didn't know who Douglas Hailey was, a short time ago was eager to grip the Gates palm when one of the new masters of the universe visited lovely Ottawa.

It is the triumph of the nerds and the geeks. Dandruff is now a status symbol, surpassing Don Johnson's designer stubble. Math is more important than political science. Bill Gates, abandoning a proud Harvard degree, is like the Charles Atlas guy who has sand loaded in his hair by the belly at the beach and returns to win the high-society beauty. He shows up at front of the suits in Toronto and takes a last gauge so obscure it could be Greek or Chinese. It is like that high jacked while that only German shepherds can hear.

When he leaves the hotel, Woody Allen has disappeared. Clark Kent is gone. He strides through the lobby, trailed by a half-dozen gardeners. He is a man with power in his pocket. The Pool Paper of computers knows he has despised his wisdom among those who have paid \$8 bucks and don't even understand it.

Reactine is a direct-action antihistamine. That's a fancy phrase allergy sufferers are going to be hearing a lot about in the future. But it's a future available only with *Reactine* today. Here's how it works.

The ingredients in most antihistamines have to be metabolized or processed by your liver before they become active. Only in their active state can they reduce allergy symptoms. Since *Reactine* is already a metabolite, or already in the active state, it doesn't need to be processed. It goes right to work to block histamine. Enough history, now it's time for current history.

Reactine is Canada's #1 prescribed



allergy remedy. Last year it was made available without a prescription. Doctors have trusted it more after time, patient after patient, for its efficacy, speed and consistency. It provides 24 hour relief of seasonal and year-round allergy symptoms. You know there only too well.

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